October 19, 2017

Senator Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Senator Murray:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), I am writing to address the issues raised recently in the *Washington Post/60 Minutes*.

The Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act was a bipartisan, commonsense solution to improve enforcement efforts and combat the opioid epidemic. The legislation sought to alleviate the concerns raised by a Government Accountability Office report in 2015\(^1\) which found that a lack of communication between DEA and registrants was hampering efforts to effectively combat prescription drug diversion. Further, this bill had strong support from distributors, pharmacies and numerous patient groups who depend on prescription drugs to treat and cure illness, alleviate pain, and improve quality of life.

HDA continues to stand by this law and its intended purpose to bring together supply chain stakeholders and regulators to address prescription drug abuse in a more transparent and collaborative way. Congressional sponsors of this legislation worked closely with the DEA throughout the legislative process. DEA and the Department of Justice did not oppose the bill and it subsequently passed both the House and Senate unanimously.

The law was intended to clarify DEA's authorities, not to restrict them. Toward that end, we were pleased to hear DEA Acting Administrator Patterson say on October 17 “I don’t think that this notion that we slowed down is an accurate one.” However, we fully support Congress’ examination of whether this law has had any impact on DEA’s enforcement capabilities. If it is determined that there have been any unintended consequences that undermine the DEA’s ability to enforce the law and take legitimate actions to prevent prescription drug abuse, we stand ready to work with you to address them in all appropriate ways including legislative action.

Thank you for your continued leadership in the fight to end the prescription drug abuse epidemic. We look forward to working with you on this shared goal.

HDA is the national association representing primary healthcare distributors, the vital link between the nation’s pharmaceutical manufacturers and healthcare providers. Each business day,

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HDA member companies ensure that over 15 million prescription medicines and healthcare products are delivered safely and efficiently to more than 200,000 pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics and others nationwide.

Sincerely,

John M. Gray
President and CEO

CC: Members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
October 19, 2017

Senator Chuck Grassley  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary  
Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary  
Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), I am writing to address the issues raised recently in the Washington Post/60 Minutes.

The Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act was a bipartisan, commonsense solution to improve enforcement efforts and combat the opioid epidemic. The legislation sought to alleviate the concerns raised by a Government Accountability Office report in 20151 which found that a lack of communication between DEA and registrants was hampering efforts to effectively combat prescription drug diversion. Further, this bill had strong support from distributors, pharmacies and numerous patient groups who depend on prescription drugs to treat and cure illness, alleviate pain, and improve quality of life.

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Sincerely,

John M. Gray
President and CEO

CC: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
October 19, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden  
The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman, House Energy and  
Ranking Member, House Energy and  
Commerce Committee  
Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Congressman Pallone:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), I am writing to address the issues raised recently in the Washington Post/60 Minutes.

The Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act was a bipartisan, commonsense solution to improve enforcement efforts and combat the opioid epidemic. The legislation sought to alleviate the concerns raised by a Government Accountability Office report in 2015 which found that a lack of communication between DEA and registrants was hampering efforts to effectively combat prescription drug diversion. Further, this bill had strong support from distributors, pharmacies and numerous patient groups who depend on prescription drugs to treat and cure illness, alleviate pain, and improve quality of life.

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Sincerely,

John M. Gray  
President and CEO

CC: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee
October 19, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee  
B-336 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Congressman Conyers:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), I am writing to address the issues raised recently in the Washington Post/60 Minutes.

The Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act was a bipartisan, commonsense solution to improve enforcement efforts and combat the opioid epidemic. The legislation sought to alleviate the concerns raised by a Government Accountability Office report in 2015 which found that a lack of communication between DEA and registrants was hampering efforts to effectively combat prescription drug diversion. Further, this bill had strong support from distributors, pharmacies and numerous patient groups who depend on prescription drugs to treat and cure illness, alleviate pain, and improve quality of life.

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John M. Gray
President and CEO

CC: Members of the House Judiciary Committee