

NewsRelease

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**NACDS, NCPA ENDORSE BIPARTISAN MEDICATION THERAPY
MANAGEMENT BILL INTRODUCED BY REPS. MCMORRIS-RODGERS AND ROSS**

Alexandria, Va. - March 3, 2011 The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) announced their support for H.R. 891, the Medication Therapy Management Benefits Act of 2011, introduced by Representatives Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-Wash.) and Mike Ross (D-Ark.). Medication therapy management (MTM) involves working with a patient to review and monitor their medication plan to maximize its effectiveness while avoiding problems that could drive up health care costs.

"Representatives McMorris-Rodgers and Ross understand the importance of pharmacists and the positive impact of MTM services for Medicare Part D beneficiaries," said NACDS President and CEO Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE and NCPA Executive Vice President and CEO Kathleen Jaeger. "Their bipartisan MTM bill is the next logical step in building on what has been proven to work by lowering the threshold for eligibility to receive MTM services."

The bill would expand the pool of Medicare Part D beneficiaries who can qualify for the service provided by a licensed pharmacist to any patient with a chronic medical condition. Presently, only those patients suffering from multiple chronic conditions are eligible.

Anderson and Jaeger added, "MTM allows clinically-trained pharmacists to use their expertise in a carefully conducted one-on-one counseling session to help ensure the best combinations of medications are being taken in the proper way. Considering that, [according to NEHI](#), the improper use of medication is estimated to cost a staggering \$290 billion a year, a service like MTM should be embraced. We hope the House of Representatives acts quickly on the bipartisan bill. We also urge Senate passage of the MTM bill that was recently introduced by Senator Kay Hagan (D-N.C.)."

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets, and mass merchants with pharmacies—from regional chains with four stores to national companies. Chains operate 39,000 pharmacies, and employ more than 2.7 million employees, including 118,000 full-time pharmacists. They fill nearly 2.6 billion prescriptions annually, which is more than 72 percent of annual prescriptions in the United States. The total

economic impact of all retail stores with pharmacies transcends their \$830 billion in annual sales. Every \$1 spent in these stores creates a ripple effect of \$1.96 in other industries, for a total economic impact of \$1.57 trillion, equal to 11 percent of GDP. NACDS represents 137 chains that operate these pharmacies in neighborhoods across America, and NACDS members also include more than 900 pharmacy and consumer packaged goods suppliers and service providers, and over 60 international members from 23 countries. For more information about NACDS, visit www.NACDS.org.

*The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA®) represents the interests of America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 23,000 independent community pharmacies, pharmacy franchises, and chains. Together they represent a \$93 billion health-care marketplace, have more than 315,000 employees including 62,400 pharmacists, and dispense over 41% of all retail prescriptions. To learn more go to www.ncpanet.org or read NCPA's blog, *The Dose*, at <http://ncpanet.wordpress.com>.*

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