

NEWS ALERT!!

The House Judiciary Committee passed HR 971 by a unanimous voice vote on Wednesday, Nov. 7.

Independent Pharmacists Made a Huge Difference!

Our vote count at the beginning of the week indicated that as many as 15 members of the committee were undecided or leaning against the "Pharmacy Negotiation" bill. That changed as a result of hundreds of calls from independent pharmacists across the country to members of Congress on the committee.

Important Efforts by ACP Lobbyists

Our lobby team did an exceptional job of making sure HR 971 passed with a strong show of support. They worked with members of the committee to make some changes to the bill that were required to pick up critical votes. One change limits the size of pharmacies that can take advantage of the new exemption so that only independent pharmacies can join efforts to negotiate against PBMs. Another change requires Congress to reevaluate the exemption after five years before it can continue (this was critical to convince some Republican members who were opposed to the bill to give pharmacists a chance to prove that the new system will be fair and a better deal for consumers).

Next Steps

Our next step will be to make sure HR 971 is passed in the House of Representatives as soon as possible. As a result, we will turn our attention to recruiting even more members of Congress to sign on as cosponsors.

We presently have 176 cosponsors. Our goal is to make sure we have a total of 218 cosponsors before the middle of December (that means we need to recruit an additional 42 members of Congress). Click on "Action Alert" in the upper right hand corner for a list of the present cosponsors.

Is your member of Congress a cosponsor?

If your member of Congress is not already a cosponsor of HR 971, please take these steps as soon as possible:

1. Call your member of Congress and ask him/her to cosponsor the bill.
2. Send an email to brad@ngrc.com to obtain a letter you can send to your member of Congress (write "HR 971" in the title box).
3. Join a Pharmacy Committee in your state (we will send a sign-up form to everyone who sends an email to brad@ngrc.com).

Thank You!

Congratulations to every independent pharmacist who worked with ACP to obtain this huge achievement. Please make sure you are signed up to be part of our growing national movement to protect independent pharmacy.

From www.acpcn.org (taken 11/11/07)