

April 27, 2007

The Honorable Olympia Snowe
United States Senate
SR-154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

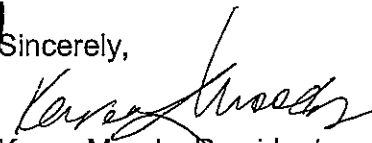
As the president of the National Coalition of Pharmaceutical Distributors (NCPD), I am writing to convey the NCPD's support for legislation intended to provide consumers with increased access to prescription pharmaceutical products, while also increasing the security of the pharmaceutical supply chain. This legislation, S.242 (Dorgan—ND), the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act of 2007, is of particular importance to the NCPD because of its provision (Section 6) designed to ensure that a given prescription pharmaceutical's "pedigree" will begin with the manufacturer and exist throughout the life of the product.

The NCPD is an organization representing the interests of thousands of secondary pharmaceutical distributors nationwide. These secondary distributors are typically small, family-operated local businesses that serve a vital function within the pharmaceutical distribution industry by providing drugs and surgical equipment to underserved, hard-to-serve and urgent-need patients and consumers in a timely and cost-effective manner. Often, as a result of contractual issues and product availability, these recipients are unable to secure these services from larger distributors without paying exorbitant costs.

Recognizing that more than 90% of the prescription pharmaceutical products existing nationwide have been delivered to end-use consumers without an accompanying pedigree, the NCPD believes the proposed provision requiring this compliance is long overdue. As you are aware, the secondary distribution industry is presently the only segment of the pharmaceutical community providing pedigree for every sale, purchase, or trade associated with a given product's wholesale history. In the interest of securing the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain, every pharmaceutical transaction must involve a method of verifying the authenticity and safety of a given product. To provide anything short of this assurance would be a disservice to the citizens of our nation.

Thank for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Karen Moody, President
National Coalition of Pharmaceutical Distributors