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NCPD ENDORSES HOUSE BILL INTENDED TO IMPROVE PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SAFETY

Washington, D.C. – The National Coalition of Pharmaceutical Distributors (NCPD) yesterday endorsed legislation that would impose new requirements on the pharmaceutical industry to improve the methods in which the nation’s prescription pharmaceutical products are tracked. This bill, H.R. 5839 (Buyer-IN), the Safeguarding America’s Pharmaceuticals Act of 2008, would provide the Food and Drug Administration with the authority to require drug manufacturers, distributors and retail dispensers to implement various procedures and adopt new technologies necessary to establish a more secure chain of custody, or “pedigree,” of pharmaceutical products.

“As a leading advocate for the estimated 4,500 independent and specialty distributors nationwide, the NCPD believes this long-awaited legislation will ensure that our pharmaceutical supply chain realizes a greater degree of protection and will provide our citizens with a higher level of safety and certainty involving their use of prescription drugs,” said NCPD President Karen Moody. “In addition, this bill will allow for our nation’s independent and specialty pharmaceutical wholesalers to continue to provide their customers, typically under-served and urgent-need patients and consumers, with the prescription drugs they desperately need.”

Along with establishing enhanced pedigree tracking requirements, H.R. 5839 would also create a uniform federal standard for pedigree compliance. This standard would effectively eliminate the patchwork of existing chain of custody laws and regulations established by individual states.

Further, the legislation would: provide for the destruction of adulterated, misbranded, and inadmissible drugs at the nation’s international mail facilities; provide for civil penalties for any person violating the Act’s provisions; and establish new ways to coordinate federal, state, and private efforts to track down drug counterfeiters.

“The NCPD looks forward to assisting in the advancement of this bill and to helping highlight its importance before Congress and the federal government,” concluded Moody.

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