



July 24, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Re: The Committee's leadership on public health preparedness and patient access to care

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

On behalf of the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA), we applaud your continued leadership on, and commitment to, bipartisan legislation that advances the public health and supports a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of critical medical products.

HSCA represents the nation's leading healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs), the sourcing and purchasing partners to virtually all of America's 7,000+ hospitals, as well as the vast majority of the 68,000+ long-term care facilities, surgery centers, clinics, and other healthcare providers. GPOs work with healthcare providers to negotiate competitive prices and support a safe and reliable supply of products. The value and services that GPOs provide allow healthcare providers and physicians to focus on their core mission: providing first-class patient care.

Health crises like the coronavirus place enormous stress on hospitals, other healthcare providers and the communities they serve. GPOs have played a critical role in supporting emergency response and public health efforts and are taking a number of innovative steps to support response efforts, including supply coordination efforts to help medical teams obtain much needed supplies and support surge capacity, adding new manufacturers to contracts to rapidly increase supplies, and working with non-traditional and adjacent industries to fill supply gaps for essential products such as hand sanitizer, isolation gowns, and surgical caps. As an industry with a proven track record of providing critical support during emergencies like Hurricane Harvey, the California wildfires and the Ebola outbreak, GPOs are committed to helping America's healthcare providers and public authorities confront difficult challenges to support patient care.

HSCA MEMBERS



HSCA appreciates the Committee's notable work on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to support access to critical supplies and healthcare, prevent and mitigate supply shortages, boost the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and promote innovation and scaling up of manufacturing to facilitate response. These measures are an important step forward for patients and the healthcare system in this country.

As the United States continues to address the pandemic, solutions that further strengthen supply chain resiliency, increase competition, and support the Strategic National Stockpile are critical to safeguarding continued patient access to high quality, affordable healthcare.

HSCA commends the Committee for voting to favorably advance a series of healthcare bills, including legislation such as the **Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2020** (H.R. 7574). The Strategic National Stockpile (or SNS) plays an important role as a partner in response efforts, serving as a stopgap in crises like the coronavirus pandemic. The Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2020 supports the SNS' public health and national security response capability by providing critical funding for SNS and enabling medical supplies to be refreshed and replenished along with increasing emergency stock at the state and federal level. HSCA supports solutions that strengthen supply chain resiliency through increasing capacity, shoring up domestic manufacturing as well as geographically diversifying supply production, exploring incentives for US producers, and promoting private-public sector collaboration for comprehensive and coordinated response.

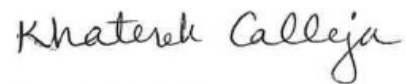
As HSCA has been working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), FEMA, and other healthcare stakeholders in this area, we look forward to working with the Committee and other supply chain stakeholders on the supply chain elasticity pilot proposed in the legislation.

HSCA commends the Committee for also advancing the **Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act** (H.R. 4712), which updates the Orphan Drug Act to close loopholes that some drug manufacturers have been exploiting in an attempt to prevent competition from entering the market. Americans rely on generic drugs to reduce costs and increase access to necessary medication, and this legislation will help increase competition and enable greater access to critical medicines for all Americans. We also appreciate your efforts to consider how emerging technologies, such as advanced manufacturing technologies like continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing, may increase timely quality production of needed medicines through the **National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Act** (H.R. 4866)

As the United States continues to address the spread of the coronavirus, protecting patients and providers from counterfeit medical products is more important than ever. HSCA applauds the Committee for advancing the **Safeguarding Therapeutics Act** (H.R. 5663), which enhances the FDA's authority to destroy counterfeit drugs and medical devices at American ports of entry, preventing such products from entering the supply chain and helping to ensure a safe and reliable supply of products.

Thank you for your leadership to support this nation as we combat the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance our nation's capabilities for the future. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective to the Committee, and we look forward to continuing to work with policymakers and all federal agencies to ensure patient and provider access to essential healthcare supplies. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if HSCA can be a resource on this issue going forward. I can be reached at (202) 629-5833 or info@supplychainassociation.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Khaterah Calleja".

Khaterah Calleja, J.D.
President & CEO
Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)