Dear Member:

First and always, from everyone at the NCAP, our best wishes to you and your families. We hope that you are healthy and staying safe and we hope that the economic challenges we know you are facing are as short in duration as possible.

From the General Assembly
NCAP Legislative Success!

Penny Shelton, NCAP Executive Director spoke to the NC House COVID-19 Health workgroup on April 14th. Penny spoke to the role that Pharmacists can and should play in helping North Carolina address the COVID-19 crisis and in getting the state back to work. Following her appearance NCAP put forth a number of proposals for consideration by the workgroup. NCAP efforts were successful in crafting out an expanded role for pharmacists to play once a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus is developed. NCAP also supported a number of other provisions in the bill. Key highlights:

- Immunizing pharmacists are authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccinations/immunizations once one is developed. A process is set in place to create screening and safety procedures prior to administration of any vaccine.
- Pharmacists will be immune from any civil or criminal liability for administering a vaccine as long as procedures were followed and actions were not grossly negligent or reckless. The exact bill language can be found at https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S704v6.pdf

NCAP will be lobbying for additional measures in any further legislation. These include:

- Giving pharmacists priority access to any PPE equipment stockpiled by the state,
- Disallowing audits by PBM’s of actions taken by pharmacists designed to address the health needs of patients during the crisis such as early refill of prescriptions
- Additional ability to administer prescribed medications such as for behavioral health.
Upcoming Legislative Session

Over the next couple of weeks, the General Assembly will be meeting on and off to consider additional legislation related to the COVID-19 crisis. No date has yet been set for the “official” 2020 short session, but it is widely expected to take place in July or August.

NCAP is exploring the pursuit of a number of pieces of legislation. We are focused on getting our PBM legislation across the finish line, as well as the possibility of running bills focused on “Collaborative Practice,” “Payment Parity” for pharmacists and other measures. Much depends on how long the “short session” ends up being and what legislative leadership is willing to consider. The rules governing what legislation can be introduced in the short session have been drawn in such a way as to make introducing new legislation difficult. We will take advantage of every opportunity to further our agenda.

Advocacy Day Postponed

NCAP leadership has decided to postpone our legislative advocacy day. We are hearing from a number of reliable sources that leadership at the General Assembly has decided to have the 2020 session sometime in July or August. This will present us with the opportunity to meet in person with legislators, which is, to be honest, preferable to virtual meetings. If, however, circumstances do not allow for us to meet in-person, we can still make use of “plan-B” and go to virtual meetings.

The opportunity to meet with legislators in person was a deciding factor in the decision. Once the General Assembly decides on a date for their session we will be able to set a date for our advocacy day. Thanks for working with us on this. We are responding to changing circumstances as best we can and looking for the best opportunities to represent you with policy makers and advance the pharmacy profession.

You Can Help Get Rid of DIR Fees!

NCAP is joining with national pharmacy organizations in support of federal legislation that would eliminate DIR fees for good! There is growing bi-partisan support for removing the barriers that threaten the financial stability of pharmacies and a pharmacy’s ability to support patients.

We need you to reach out to your Federal Representatives and Senators on this issue. Ask them to support eliminating DIR fees by signing onto a letter to Congressional leadership supporting such legislation.

Here are four easy steps you can take to make your voice heard.

1. If you do not know your federal legislators go to https://www.ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators
2. Type in your Address.
3. Click on the link to the home page of your U.S. Representative. (Your U.S. Senators are Thom Tillis and Richard Burr and their links are at the top of the page)
4. Navigate to the part of their website that asks you to contact them. You may have to enter your zip code or address.

5. Attached to this update is a letter you can cut and paste into the window on your legislator’s website or simply ask your representative to write legislative leadership and support legislation eliminating DIR fees. Tell her or him you are a pharmacist and that these fees are making it difficult to remain in business.

I did this and it took me about 10 minutes.

Please take a few minutes to make your voice heard and eliminate one of the most damaging practices of PBM organizations.

**NCAP & NCPA Are Working Together**

NCAP and NCPA have teamed up requesting a meeting with Chief of Staff Mark Meadows in an attempt to call for another look at a regulatory fix to DIR fees and clawbacks. Essentially, the Administration can call for an end to these unfair PBM businesses practices. We still need our members to ask our legislators for a legislative DIR fix as outlined in the section above, but meanwhile, NCAP will continue to work with our national associations, like NCPA to pressure for a regulatory fix. Bottom line is that we have to continue to keep this issue in the face of our legislators and policymakers.

**NCAP Works with Members and FDA**

NCAP, through our Health-System Practice Academy, has agreed to work with the FDA to provide drug shortage and surveillance information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ryan Mills, Chairperson, has identified contacts within four of our health systems spread throughout the state to submit requested data through a new FDA portal. As hospitals are doing their best to prepare and handle COVID-related surges, the FDA recognized that drug shortage data really needed to reflect regional and state-level perspectives.

**Important: Supporting Those Who Support Pharmacy**

NCAP is making plans to grow our fundraising in support of legislators who have stood up for pharmacy. We are planning a series of regional “meet and greet” fundraisers where you can meet key legislators, tell them how important their support of pharmacy and the NCAP agenda is and make a contribution to those who have “walked the walk” for us. Contributions are especially appreciated and noted during election years, so please consider contributing to support a deserving legislator. Keep an eye open for dates, times, and venues.

You don’t need to wait for one of our events to contribute. You can do your part by contributing to the NCAP advocacy fund at [https://secure001.membershipsoftware.org/NCAPsecure/donation_pay.asp](https://secure001.membershipsoftware.org/NCAPsecure/donation_pay.asp) Your contribution supports the work of your lobbyist and other in-house advocacy efforts at NCAP

NCAP is also joining in a collaborative effort with other pharmacists to raise advocacy funds and pool them to have greater impact. Your contribution to that effort is also greatly appreciated. You can support this effort by mailing a contribution to: PILL PAC: 209 Fayetteville Street: Raleigh, NC 27601
No amount is too small and every dollar counts.

We cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of your voice and engagement as part of our efforts. Please take time to learn what you can do to ensure that policy makers hear your concerns and act to support your work.

We want to hear your thoughts on how we can be successful. Never hesitate to contact us with concerns, insights, or information that can be of use and which can enhance our efforts. Always feel free to contact me directly. My email is Solarigovernmentsolutions@gmail.com and my phone number is 919-744-8803. As your lobbyist I am happy to answer any questions you have about my work and I am ready to assist you in any way possible.