MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

June 9, 2011

The Honorable Gail Haines
State Representative
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Haines:

Subject: Support of Senate Bills 333 and House Bill 4564

Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) has recognized issues associated with the misuse of products containing pseudoephedrine (PSE). While this product is safe and effective and found in common cold and allergy medications, it provides an abuse potential when obtained for illicit reasons. It is our belief that the requirement to utilize an electronic tracking system will help reduce access for illegal uses, while still allowing law-abiding citizens the ability to obtain these products.

We support the innovative approach taken by Sen. John Proos in Senate Bill 0333. His legislation establishes a real-time electronic tracking system that blocks the illegal sales while allowing continued access for consumers who depend on these medicines. More than 12 states have adopted e-tracking statutes, which require retailers to record sales of PSE in real-time and block sales to consumers who seek to purchase more than the legal limit. And, by participating in the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx) system, the e-tracking database will be integrated with participating states. In short, this is a real-time system that blocks thousands of sales to criminals, while allowing law-abiding citizens to get the medicines they need.

House Bill 4564, introduced by Rep. Amanda Price, would amend the current Michigan law to adopt the quantity limitations established by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in the Federal Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005. MPA supports HB 4564.

Since the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently removed more than 500 common cough and cold products from retail shelves, the public's access is limited to few safe and effective products. The implementation of the NPLEx program will allow individuals access to an effective product, while implementing safeguards to prevent abuse and not increasing the cost of health care.

MPA advances the profession of pharmacy and patient care on behalf of the 10,000 pharmacists and 15,000 pharmacy technicians in the state.

Sincerely,

Greg Baran, R.Ph., MA, FMPA
Director of Governmental Affairs

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