[Enter Date]

The Honorable Mike Pence

Vice President

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20501

**RE: Pharmacy Recommendations to the President’s Coronavirus Task Force**

Dear Vice President Pence:

Pharmacies and their staff are on the front line every day serving patients, families and caregivers faced with the medical and emotional challenges associated with COVID-19. Additionally, pharmacies provide home delivery services and have the expertise to safely compound hand sanitizer solutions that are experiencing significant shortages.

Much like other small businesses impacted by COVID-19, pharmacies need the support of the Trump Administration so they can continue to provide Americans with their daily pharmaceutical and health care needs during this pandemic. One action that the Administration can immediately take to help keep pharmacies open for business is to suspend all Medicare Part D Direct and Indirect Remuneration (DIR) fees imposed on retail pharmacies by health plans and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM’s). These excessive fees threaten the ongoing viability of retail pharmacies during this challenging and turbulent financial environment.

We also urge the Administration to waive all prescription drug benefit program requirements for patient signatures or other delivery verification requirements that place patients and pharmacy staff under undue risks of COVID-19 infection.

Pharmacies stand ready to help the Task Force achieve its goals by providing the following services:

* Conduct COVID-19 diagnostic tests as they become more available.
* Function as COVID-19 testing sites in pharmacies, parking lots and drive-thru windows.
* Provide home delivery services to patients staying at home to avoid infection.
* Compound hand sanitizers in accordance with FDA guidance for alcohol-based sanitizers.
* Educate the public about COVID-19 and prevention techniques using Task Force and CDC issued literature.
* Immunize patients once a COVID-19 vaccine is available.
* Relieve COVID-19 symptoms by supplying prescription drugs, OTC medications, supplies and counseling.

In order to continue to provide essential pharmaceutical services and care to Americans, we implore the Task Force and Administration to take the following actions:

* Suspend all Medicare Part D pharmacy DIR fees immediately for 2020.
* Provide COVID-19 test kits and protective equipment to community pharmacists.
* Waive patient signature and other home delivery verification requirements.
* Waive early refill requirements for maintenance medications.
* Authorize pharmacists to compound medications undergoing drug shortages.
* Suspend pharmacy network restrictions to allow any willing pharmacy to dispense medications to people in underserved areas.
* Provide unsecured credit to pharmacies to ensure they have the cash to pay their staff, rent, inventory suppliers, and other costs.

We applaud the leadership demonstrated by the Administration in these turbulent times and offer to do everything we can to support the Task Force and serve the public.

Respectfully yours,

[Enter Pharmacy Name]