



Serving Patients is Our Privilege

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October 31, 2019

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Dirksen Building, #413
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, #720
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: S. 2723 –The Mitigating Emergency Drug Shortages (MEDS) Act

Dear Senator Collins and Senator Smith,

Civica Rx strongly supports S. 2723, the "Mitigating Emergency Drug Shortages (MEDS) Act." The Act is an important step in addressing drug shortages – a problem that has become a national crisis that impacts the U.S. medical community daily.

Over the past two decades, shortages of generic, injectable drugs critical to the lifesaving work of hospitals in the United States have become commonplace. These drug shortages are so ubiquitous that hospitals and health care systems now maintain permanent drug shortage response teams that seek alternatives to unavailable drugs. As a result, time that hospital pharmacists, technicians, physicians, nurses and others would prefer to spend caring for patients is spent ensuring that the patients who most need short-supply drugs get whatever supply is available.

Civica Rx was established by U.S. Health Systems and Philanthropies to reduce chronic drug shortages.

Civica is a non-profit, non-stock corporation committed to stabilizing the supply of essential generic medications. As of October 2019, more than 40 Health Systems were Civica Rx members, representing over 1000 U.S. hospitals and 30 percent of all licensed U.S. hospital beds. Civica Rx acts in the best interest of patients to eliminate uncertainty in the generic drug supply chain through long-term contracts with Health Systems as well as Civica's manufacturing partners. An advisory

committee of hospital pharmacists prioritizes the drugs Civica makes. Civica aims to stabilize the supply of antibiotics, anesthetics, cardiac medications, pain management medications, and other essential sterile injectable medicines used in hospitals daily.

The typical drug in shortage is a generic, sterile injectable. Many are life-saving products commonly used in surgeries and in emergency rooms at hospitals. Anesthesia medications, antibiotics, pain management medications, nutrition and electrolyte products, and chemotherapy agents have all experienced shortages. Even the sterile saline solution used to administer drugs intravenously has been in short supply.

We fully support and are encouraged by the MEDS Act's increased FDA authority around disclosures of root causes and expected duration of shortages, extension of reporting requirements for API manufacturers, contingency planning requirements for manufacturers, and incentives for manufacturers to step in to make essential drugs in shortage.

Thank you for introducing this timely legislation to mitigate emergency drug shortages in support of improved patient care across the country. Please let us know how we can be helpful as you work with Congress to advance the MEDS Act.

Sincerely,



Martin VanTrieste
President and CEO
Civica Rx