H.R. 4190 – Medicare Patient Access To Pharmacist Services in Medically Underserved Communities
H.R. 4190 - Background

- Millions of Americans lack adequate access to primary health care in U.S.

- Forty-three (43) of South Carolina’s forty-six (46) counties have been designated as “medically underserved”

- Over 7,700 registered pharmacists in SC

- Most South Carolina residents on Medicare do not have access to important services provided by pharmacists
Pharmacist Services include:

- Chronic Disease Management
- Drug Therapy Management
- Preventive Screenings & Related Counseling and Education
  - Glucose Testing
  - Blood Pressure
  - Cholesterol
According to the Association of American Medical Colleges:

- By 2020, there will be 91,000 FEWER doctors than needed to meet demand.
- The impact will be most severe in medically underserved communities.
- In view of this anticipated shortage, pharmacists are in a position to play a greater role in the delivery of health care services.
Underserved Community Defined

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), a medically underserved area is:

- Those geographic areas that have too few primary care providers, high infant mortality rates, high poverty, and high elderly populations
Federal Legislation

- Provider Status for Pharmacists:
  - HR 4190 – Brett Guthrie (R-KY); G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) and Todd Young (R-IN)
  - Authorizes a licensed pharmacist to bill for Medicare Part B services as long as the provision of those services are within your scope of practice
  - Does not supersede state practice act laws
There are 116 cosponsors of H.R. 4190 in the U.S. House of Representatives

62 are Democrats; 54 are Republicans

South Carolina has 7 Congressmen

Only 1 is a cosponsor: Rep. Joe Wilson (R-2nd Dist.)

Those who need to be contacted and asked:

- Rep. Mark Sanford (R-1st – Charleston area)
- Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-3rd – Anderson/Laurens area)
- Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-4th – Greenville/Spartanburg area)
- Rep. Mick Mulvanie (R-5th – Rock Hill/Gaffney/Sumter area)
- Rep. James Clyburn (D-6th – Columbia/Florence/Santee area)
- Rep. Tom Rice (R-7th – Myrtle Beach area)
For More Information

Craig Burridge, CEO. SCPhA
craig@scrx.org
(803) 354-9977 (O); (803) 463-4788 (C)
www.SCRX.org

Go onto SCPhA web site and register for text Legislative Action Alerts TODAY!