



**American Hospital
Association**

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**STATEMENT ON CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEE ACT**

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We applaud Congressional passage of the reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act. The number of drug shortages has tripled in the last six years and the shortages have affected patient care. Hospitals are committed to providing every patient with the right care; given at the right time, in the right setting. The right drug is an essential element in that equation.

Hospitals have taken action to reduce the impact of shortages on patients including increasing inventories, buying alternative drugs and training clinical staff on how to deal with drug shortages. This new legislation will help ease the strain that hospitals across the country have faced in dealing with shortages.

The House and Senate bills include important reforms that require manufacturers to notify the FDA in advance if there will be a discontinuance or interruption in the supply of a drug; codify FDA's authority to more quickly approve manufacturer applications to make drugs that are in short supply; lift caps set by the Drug Enforcement Administration on narcotic ingredients to ensure sufficient supply for vital anesthesia, pain management and other critical uses; and improve communication with providers and patients as to the reason for and length of potential shortages. The legislation also creates a user fee program that will help speed FDA approval of generic drugs.

The AHA appreciates Congress' hard work and dedication in tackling this critical health care issue and looks forward to swift adoption of a final legislative package.

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