

October 8, 2007

Senator Jon Tester, Montana  
205 Senate Russell Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

I am writing on behalf of the 500 plus members of the Montana Pharmacy Association to express our thanks and appreciation for your co-sponsorship of two pieces of federal legislation introduced by Senator Baucus on August 2<sup>nd</sup>—S. 1951 and S. 1954. Each is very important right now to community pharmacies in Montana and across the entire country.

Our Executive Director, Jim Smith, met with your staff person, Alpha Lillstrom, in September, discussed these two bills with her and asked her to request your co-sponsorship of them. Jim tells me that Alpha was very informed and knowledgeable about healthcare generally and rural healthcare issues in particular.

Our Association is having a Winter Continuing Education Program at Fairmont Hot Springs, January 25-27, 2008. If you or any of your staff are in the state that weekend, please come on by and let us show you our deep appreciation for your efforts on our behalf.

The healthcare debate continues and the key issues involve cost, quality and access. Our community pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare providers in the country. We still have pharmacies in Baker, Troy, Chinook and many other small and medium sized Montana communities. Thanks for working with us and with Senator Baucus to be sure they are treated fairly so that they can stay in business and continue serving their patients and customers.

Thanks Again Senator Tester,

James P. Seifert, President  
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