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IACP SUPPORTS LEGISLATION IN LOUISIANA TO PROTECT CONSUMERS

Bill Takes Aim at Inappropriate Physician/Pharmacy Financial Relationships

Missouri City, Texas – The International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists announced today that it is endorsing legislation filed in the state of Louisiana that would establish more stringent guidelines for the marketing of compounded medications and the ownership of compounding pharmacies.

House Bill 568, introduced by state Representative Ledricka Thierry, enables the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to investigate and take disciplinary action against a pharmacy that has financial arrangements with doctors and other prescribers that jeopardize patients' freedom-of-choice and could lead to increased health care billings.

HB 568 prohibits pharmacists and doctors from entering into financial schemes that put patients at risk when the drug(s) and/or the pharmacy are only selected due to financial incentives provided to the doctor, instead of a prescription made on the basis of the best available therapy.

“As the professional organization representing compounding pharmacists in Louisiana and nationwide, we have serious concerns about recent financially motivated marketing schemes that are apparently aimed at taking advantage of patients,” said David G. Miller, R.Ph., Executive Vice President & CEO of the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP).

“These schemes are led by third-party marketing companies, not pharmacists, and they are not representative of the compounding profession. They add unnecessary cost and can compromise patient health. They are detrimental to the vital health care services we provide every day.”

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF COMPOUNDING PHARMACISTS

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The legislation, approved by the Louisiana House Committee on Health and Welfare last week and scheduled for a full House vote on May 14, 2015, also enables the state's Board of Pharmacy to examine physician ownership of pharmacies and how compounded preparations are marketed to prescribers.

The IACP provides educational programming to members so that they clearly understand state and federal rules related to the marketing of compounded prescriptions. "As a profession, the guiding principle we follow is to never do anything to the patient for the purpose of financial gain," Miller said. "We hope that this bill will become Louisiana law and serve as a model for other states."

About the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists

The [International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists \(IACP\)](http://www.iacprx.org) is an association representing over 4,000 pharmacists, technicians, students, and members of the compounding community who focus upon the specialty practice of pharmacy compounding. Compounding pharmacists work directly with prescribers including physicians, nurse practitioners and veterinarians to create customized medication solutions for patients and animals whose health care needs cannot be met by manufactured medications.

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