

# Alliance to Modernize Prescribing Information

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Granger, and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

It is extremely disappointing that the Agriculture-Rural Development-FDA Appropriations bill once again includes language that prevents the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from advancing a proposed 2014 regulation (79 Fed. Reg. 75506) requiring pharmaceutical prescribing information (PI) be delivered primarily in digital form instead of paper. The Ag/FDA Appropriations subcommittee has chosen to prioritize the interests of the paper lobby above the broader interests of patients and the environment by continuing to prevent the FDA's efforts to modernize labeling.

Congress' perennial prohibition of labeling modernization has resulted in the destruction of nearly 30 million trees used to produce 540 billion sheets of paper labels<sup>1</sup>, almost all of which are ignored and discarded by prescribers and pharmacists in favor of accessing the same, often updated, information online. Congress cannot claim to be in favor of patients and sustainability while continuing to thwart reasonable and commonsense labeling modernizations proposed by the FDA. The FDA's proposed regulation would improve the speed of labeling updates, and thus the speed of patient care delivery; avoid potential negative impact to patients; and reduce hundreds of millions of pounds of unnecessary paper waste discarded each year.

Prescribers are already comfortable with receiving information via digital means; and, today, a majority of prescriptions are sent and filled electronically.<sup>2</sup> It is time for PI to be brought into the digital standard expected for 21st century information exchange.

Therefore, we strongly urge the subcommittee to amend the FY2022 Appropriations bill to remove this barrier to progress and put the interests of patients and the environment first.

Sincerely,  
AMPI Members

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<sup>1</sup> Sierra Club Website. [How Much Paper Does One Tree Produce?](https://www.sierraclub.org/conservation/paper/2014/05/how-much-paper-does-one-tree-produce)

<sup>2</sup> Surescripts 2019 National Progress Report. <https://surescripts.com/news-center/national-progress-report-2019/>.