



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Sen. Peters and Michigan Sen. Shirkey to be Recognized for Advancing Good Public Health Policy

United States (U.S.) Sen. Gary Peters and Michigan Sen. Mike Shirkey will be honored with the Michigan Pharmacy Political Action Council (PAC) Good Public Health Policy Award at the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) Annual Convention & Exposition, Feb. 26-28 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The Good Public Health Policy Award is presented by Pharmacy PAC to an individual or individuals who have worked diligently for the advancement of public health policy for the citizens of Michigan.

U.S. Sen. Peters was elected in 2014 to represent Michigan in the U.S. Senate. In the 114th Congress, he serves on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

Sen. Peters has worked with pharmacists to support provider status in both the U.S. House and Senate. He is currently a cosponsor of Senate Bill 314, which would enable patient access to, and coverage for, Medicare Part B services by state-licensed pharmacists in medically underserved communities. In addition, in the previous legislative session, Sen. Peters (then a U.S. Representative) and his staff met with MPA at an event and he signed on as a cosponsor of House Resolution 4190. Sen. Peters has also advocated for other Congressional leaders to support the legislation and has been receptive to pharmacists' viewpoints about why provider status would improve their practice and increase access to high-quality, cost-effective patient care for constituents.

Sen. Shirkey represents Michigan's 16th District, covering Branch, Hillsdale and Jackson Counties. He serves as chair of the Senate Health Policy and Michigan Competitiveness Committees, and is a member of the Elections and Government Reform and Energy and Technology Committees. Sen. Shirkey also serves as the vice-chair for the Appropriations Subcommittee for Community Health.

Working closely with pharmacy professionals in his district, Sen. Shirkey has been learning about pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and aiming to address PBM transparency. As a past Board chair for Allegiance Health System, he has also worked to expand his knowledge of health care concerns. Along with Rep. Ken Yonker, Sen. Shirkey introduced Senate Bill 68 and House Bill 4207 to allow advanced practice registered nurses to play a greater role in care delivery, improve quality and help ensure better access for patients through prevention and wellness services, care coordination and quality assurance.

The Michigan Pharmacy Political Action Council (PAC) is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of pharmacy professionals that actively seek to promote good government and public health. Pharmacy PAC serves as the advocacy arm of Michigan Pharmacists Association, which advances the profession of pharmacy and patient care on behalf of the 9,000 pharmacists and 15,000 pharmacy technicians in the state.

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