

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 15, 2011**

***PRESS RELEASE***  
***NPhA and SNPhA Delegation***  
***Pass a Combined 10 Resolutions at Annual Meeting***

Atlanta, GA – The National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA), in conjunction with the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), held its 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA on July 22-25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, themed “Success through Diversity.” The Annual Meeting activities were located at the JW Marriot Atlanta Buckhead. Civil rights activist and U.S. Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) addressed the NPhA Opening General Session. Representative Lewis highlighted the importance of pharmacists as integral members of the healthcare team and encouraged expansion and innovation of pharmacy services during his speech.

The combined NPhA and SNPhA delegations passed a total of 10 resolutions. The resolutions addressed issues concerning mental illness, nurse practitioner scope of practice, patient privacy, healthcare models, and acetaminophen toxicity. Full text of all resolutions passed is as follows:

**2011.1** Whereas our society is plagued with a widespread prejudice against those suffering with mental illness, causing these individuals to deny their mental suffering out of fear that they will appear to be morally weak, incompetent, or not meeting socially acceptable standards; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA acknowledge that mental illness is as valid as physical illness and supports legislations pertaining to an increased financing of and improved access to mental health treatment.

**2011.2** Whereas NPhA and SNPhA recognize that the utilization of nurse practitioners improves the patient’s access to healthcare, and whereas dispensing of the medication at point of care may result in medication errors; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA oppose the expansion of nurse practitioners’ rights to include dispensing.

**2011.3** Whereas there is an increasing concern about patient's privacy; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA support the establishment of private consultation areas in all pharmacies.

**2011.4** Whereas the improper disposal of unused/expired medications results in environmental harm as well as increases the inappropriate use by individuals; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA support the DEA’s “Take Back Day” for unused/expired medications, and Be it further resolved that NPhA and SNPhA encourage pharmacies to promote and assist in the process of this day as well as proper medication disposal.

**2011.5** Whereas it is important for patients in under-served and rural areas to have access to high-quality, patient focused and well trained primary care teams; and Whereas it is essential for pharmacists to be a part of the team to improve patient health outcomes and organizational economic outcomes; and Whereas pharmacists are generally not included on such teams; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA support the Pharmacist Student Loan Repayment Eligibility Act of 2011 which provides eligible entities an important recruitment tool for pharmacists who are essential members of the health care team.

**2011.6** Whereas improved patient outcomes and cost reductions have been established, via literature, with the utilization and increase of clinical and specialty positions for pharmacists; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA support the implementation of more protocol based clinical practices in the community and institutional settings regarding disease management and pharmacotherapy.

**2011.7** Whereas pharmacists have proven to be an integral component of the healthcare team; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA strongly support healthcare models, such as the medical home, which incorporate the clinical skills of pharmacists in the provision of patient centered primary care.

**2011.8** Whereas acetaminophen is safe when taken as directed, but it is still held responsible for one of the most common poisonings in the United States; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA support the FDA's decisions to reduce the acetaminophen limit to 325 mg per prescription product and the new requirement of a boxed warning on all prescribed acetaminophen products.

**2011.9** Whereas education and community-based programs play a key role in preventing diseases, improving health, and enhancing quality of life; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA support the use of traditional and non-traditional settings, such as work sites, churches, schools, and community centers, to encourage sharing of health information and education within communities.

**2011.10** Whereas patients use more than one pharmacy or hospital setting for treatment and that many of them are harmed every day since there isn't a centralized way to forewarn of medication interactions before they occur; Be it resolved that NPhA and SNPhA support legislation pertaining to the implementation of a national computerized patient record to be shared across different health care settings that will increase patient safety and medical errors reporting with appropriate patient authorization and security measures abiding by HIPAA regulations.

The National Pharmaceutical Association, founded in 1947, is the oldest and largest professional society representing the views and ideals of pharmacists on critical issues affecting minority health care and pharmacy. NPhA is a leader in the pharmaceutical care arena that addresses socio-economic issues affecting the individual patient and advances the standards of care in all practice settings.

-----  
**Contact: Sharon Early, President**  
**National Pharmaceutical Association**  
**(877) 215-2091 or (919)-469-5870 (fax)**  
**sharon.early@npha.net**