

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH PROCLAMATIONS

October is American Pharmacists Month and it's our time to show how pharmacists' services can positively impact the lives of patients in many ways. Your elected representatives—mayors, city managers, county executives and state governors—can help build awareness and recognize the value of our contribution to patient care by issuing a proclamation designating October as American Pharmacists Month.

Getting a proclamation for American Pharmacists Month can be easier if you know how to go about it. In many areas, a mayor or governor can issue a proclamation without action from the city council or state legislature.

Here are some tips on how to get a proclamation issued with or without legislative action.

When a Public Official Can Issue a Proclamation without Legislative Approval

1. Call your mayor's or governor's office to determine how proclamations are issued. When you call, be prepared to learn that the process may take a few months. Also, have your materials ready, such as the sample proclamation in this Guide. Localize relevant facts about pharmacy and simply explain why American Pharmacists Month should be recognized by your city or state.
2. Try to elicit support from other pharmacist leaders in your city or state. You can have them contact their mayors, city councils, and local and state officials about American Pharmacists Month. Letters to the governor from local pharmacists' associations will reflect statewide interest and support.
3. When a proclamation is issued, express your thanks and appreciation. Include the governor and/or mayor in ceremonies planned for the Month. Remember to inform the media about American Pharmacists Month and the official attention you have received. Finally, send a letter of appreciation to the official after the month's activities are over.

When Legislative Action is Required to Issue a Proclamation

1. If you need to work through the city council or state legislature, start now. Again, start by finding out what the process is for getting official recognition. Your local representative's office can tell you how to start (even if you intend to ask another representative in your state to sponsor the proclamation).
2. A resolution will need to be sponsored by a member of the appropriate governmental body. Find someone who is supportive of pharmacy or who has voiced an interest in health care concerns. (This would also be a good time to educate a government official who has not worked with you.) In several states, pharmacists are members of the legislature. If you reside in one of those states, your pharmacist-legislator may be a good person to ask to be the sponsor.

3. Again, have prepared materials for use in drafting a resolution or proclamation. Be ready to share your insight about pharmacy and the significance of American Pharmacists Month. For example, indicate how many pharmacists are in your city or state, the valuable contribution they make to the community, how much the resolution will mean to the [NUMBER OF] pharmacist constituents/voters, and how this recognition might have a positive impact on overall community health.
4. Find out how you can help your sponsor ensure passage of the resolution. Like any bill, you have to lobby. This will require a plan and some hard work. You may need to get other legislators to co-sponsor the resolution. You can start by writing your legislators about the resolution and soliciting their support. Telephone follow-up may be needed with your sponsor and with other legislators to remind them of the importance of this issue to pharmacists. They may be in a good position to help your sponsor in moving the bill.
5. After the resolution is passed, show appreciation to your sponsor and to everyone who supported the resolution.
6. See sample proclamation below. This sample may be used as a template.

Sample Proclamation

Office of the [GOVERNOR/MAYOR]
[STATE/CITY]
Proclamation

Whereas, pharmacy is one of the oldest of the health professions concerned with the health and well-being of all people; and

Whereas, today, there are over 254,000 pharmacists licensed in the United States providing services to assure the rational and safe use of all medications; and

Whereas, the use of medication, as a cost-effective alternative to more expensive medical procedures, is becoming a major force in moderating overall health care costs; and

Whereas, today's powerful medications require greater attention to the manner in which they are used by different patient population groups—both clinically and demographically; and

Whereas, it is important that all users of prescription and nonprescription medications, or their caregivers, be knowledgeable about and share responsibility for their own drug therapy; and

Whereas, Pharmacists are specifically educated with a focus and level of expertise on medication therapy that exceeds that of other health care providers, are ideally suited to work collaboratively with other health care providers and patients to improve medication use and outcomes by providing services through medication therapy management; and

Whereas, Pharmacists provide both expertise and accessibility which are crucial to patients fully optimizing access to medications that are not self-administered such as, but not limited to immunizations; and

Whereas, Pharmacists are best positioned to be the health care professionals to help ensure patients are adherent to their medications, and provide patient care that ensures optimal medication therapy outcomes; and

Whereas, the American Pharmacists Association, the [STATE/LOCAL ASSOCIATION OR PHARMACY SCHOOL] have declared October as American Pharmacists Month with the theme *Pharmacists: Easy to Reach, Ready to Help*;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, [GOVERNOR'S/MAYOR'S NAME], do hereby proclaim October as American Pharmacists Month in the [STATE/CITY] of [NAME] and urge all our citizens to acknowledge the valuable services of pharmacists to provide safe, affordable, and beneficial pharmaceutical care services and products to all citizens.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand

and caused this seal to be affixed.

[GOVERNOR'S/MAYOR'S SIGNATURE]