

Overview

NCPDP leaders participated in a highly active and strategically aligned EDvocacy Tour in May 2026, during which they conducted 12 meetings across 10 states with congressional offices. The discussions focused on three key priorities: **affordability**, **access**, and **health technology modernization**. Conversations were closely aligned with current legislative and policy developments, including the CMS prior authorization proposed rule, direct-to-consumer (DTC) drug programs, and the Rural Health Transformation Program access initiatives.

Congressional staff demonstrated strong engagement, recognizing NCPDP as a trusted subject matter expert and industry convener, particularly in areas such as electronic prior authorization (ePA) and the expanded pharmacist scope of practice.

Overall, the meetings successfully strengthened NCPDP's position on Capitol Hill, with clear interest from policymakers in ongoing collaboration and updates. Specific takeaways included:

- Enthusiasm for NCPDP's multi-disciplinary ePA roundtable with CMS
- Requests for our SME input, on real-time affordability options and safety considerations with DTC programs
- Interest in updates from future DTC stakeholder advisory group discussions

A key insight that emerged was the importance of prioritizing structured data standards *with* AI, over AI alone without interoperability. This reinforces NCPDP's current strategic discussions on AI with our board, members, and partner organizations.

Why Our Participation Matters

NCPDP engagement on the Hill coincided with the House Ways and Means Committee progress on the Main Street Pharmacy Access Act (H.R. 3164), heightening the timeliness and impact of these aligned discussions also on expanding pharmacist-provided care. We will continue to follow this bill closely, if you would like updates on this and other industry relevant regulatory happenings, subscribe to [RxReconn](#).

 EDvocacy Update

MAY 2026

Participants

Thank you to the following NCPDP leaders for their representation and collective mission on each of these efforts.

NCPDP Staff

- J.W. Hill, MBAHCM
- Stephen Mullenix, RPh
- Julia Vu, PharmD

NCPDP Representatives

- Monument Advocacy
 - Jennifer Steger
 - Colton Henning

NCPDP Board Members

- Christopher Mendez
- Mindy Smith, RPh, MHA
- Jeff Deitch
- Timothy Fensky, RPh
- Christian Tadrus, RPh, PharmD, FASCP, AE-C, NSC