In a letter published online on Tennessean.com (bit.ly/OpEdTennCarePharmCuts), Jim McBride, PharmD, President of the Tennessee Pharmacists Association, discusses the potential impact of proposed pharmacy cuts to the TennCare pharmacy program for the upcoming fiscal year 2016 (see link below). The proposed cuts of over $24 million in the TennCare Pharmacy Program would drastically reduce reimbursement rates to pharmacies for brand-name, generic and specialty drugs, threatening the health of Tennessee’s most vulnerable patients.

A decision could be made as early as next week, so the time to act is now! TPA encourages each of you to contact your legislators (www.capitol.tn.gov/legislators/) today and ask them to support budget amendments that restore funding for proposed cuts to the TennCare pharmacy program. Please share Dr. McBride’s letter with your colleagues and your patients, and ask them to contact their legislators, too.

Summary of Proposed Cuts (with proposed amount of reduction):

- Increased Buprenorphine Limits [$1.5 million (state) / $4.5 million (total)]
- Compounding Cuts [$908,300 (state) / $2.6 million (total)]
- Pharmacy AWP Direct Reimbursement Cuts [$6 million (state) / $17 million (total)]

For a full summary of the TennCare Proposed FY 2016 Budget Cuts, follow this link: bit.ly/TPA-TennCarePharmCuts_TNProposedBudgetFY2016PDF

TPA appreciates all you do every day to improve the lives of patients and to advance the pharmacy profession. Thank you for your assistance and advocacy efforts!