



December 20, 2021

The Honorable Eric Swalwell
U.S. House of Representatives
174 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer
U.S. House of Representatives
315 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the *Right Drug Dose Now Act*

Dear Representative Swalwell and Representative Emmer:

On behalf of the Personalized Medicine Coalition (PMC), which represents more than 200 innovators, scientists, patients, providers, and payers to promote the understanding and adoption of personalized medicine concepts, services, and products for the benefit of patients and the health care system, I am writing to share our support for the *Right Drug Dose Now Act*.

The *Right Drug Dose Now Act* would facilitate incremental but meaningful progress toward ensuring that the United States health care system takes full advantage of our increasing understanding of drug-gene interactions to ensure that the right treatments are targeted to the right patients at the right time, leading to more effective and efficient health care.

PMC defines personalized medicine as a field in which physicians use diagnostic tests to determine which treatments will work best for each patient or use medical interventions to alter molecular mechanisms that cause disease. By combining data from diagnostic tests with an individual's medical history, circumstances, and values, health care providers can develop targeted care plans with their patients.

Pharmacogenomics (PGx) is a cornerstone of personalized medicine, providing a way to guide treatment and prevention strategies based on individual patient characteristics. The use of diagnostic tests to detect PGx drug-gene associations can play an important role in avoiding adverse events, optimizing drug dosing, and identifying patients who will or will not respond to medications. PGx tests relevant to certain drug-gene associations have been available for more than a decade. Still, routine testing is not widely utilized.

We therefore applaud your efforts to make incremental progress in the area of PGx testing with the *Right Drug Dose Now Act*. As PGx testing becomes increasingly important to the practice of medicine, patients and providers must be aware of and understand their potential uses in order to make informed treatment decisions. The public awareness and health care professional education campaigns detailed in the *Right Drug Dose Now Act* can help close some knowledge gaps about drug-gene interactions and adverse events. Additionally, the increased funding authorized for

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the Genomic Community Resources program would further facilitate integration of PGx testing into patient care if the full funding amount is appropriated to the National Institutes of Health.

Even with additional attention to stakeholder education and research, challenges remain to delivering PGx information in ways that allow patients and providers to make optimal treatment decisions. The evidence sources available on drug-gene interactions can vary in strength, and many were developed for specific purposes. Different perspectives about the clinical validity of some drug-gene associations can lead to different conclusions, and, as a result, recommendations among evidence sources are sometimes discordant. This can cause significant misunderstanding throughout the medical community, which may negatively influence PGx utilization by providers. Experts in the PGx community have come together to ensure a collaborative approach to minimizing duplicative efforts and harmonizing solutions. We hope you and your staff will be mindful of the work the community is doing so that language included in the *Right Drug Dose Now Act* not only helps make PGx information easily accessible, but also helps make PGx information interpretable and meaningful.

Thank you for your leadership on this bill, which highlights the promise of personalized medicine in improving patient outcomes and reducing inefficient trial-and-error care. If you have any questions about the content of this letter or if we can be of further assistance as the bill moves toward introduction, please contact me at cbens@personalizedmedicinecoalition.org or 202-499-0986.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Bens
Senior Vice President, Public Policy