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At March 19 Congressional Briefing, Experts, Including HDA, Focus on Solutions to Drug Shortages

On March 19, the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill to urge Congress to adopt a comprehensive strategy to address the drug shortage crisis. Joining the panel, which comprised experts from patient, provider and other healthcare-related organizations, was HDA's Nicolette Louissaint, PhD, Senior Vice President, Policy and Strategic Planning, along with:

- Craig Burton, Senior Vice President, Association for Accessible Medicines, Executive Director, Biosimilars Council;
- Carrie Harney, JD, Vice President, U.S. Government and Regulatory Affairs, USP;
- Mark Fleury, PhD, Principal, Policy Development, Emerging Science, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; and,
- Matt Christian, MSc, Director, Supply Chain Insights, Supply Chain Center, USP.

The collective call to action emphasized the importance of a multifaceted approach in tackling drug shortages, underscoring the significance of proactive measures and legislative support in safeguarding public health. Representing the distribution industry's perspective, Dr. Louissaint stressed that merely enhancing visibility into the supply chain is insufficient in addressing shortages. Instead, she emphasized proactive measures, such as expanding inventory through vendor managed inventory contracts. This approach not only helps alleviate shortages but also contributes to stabilizing prices and bolstering national security.

Dr. Louissaint also shed light on the potential of the [RAPID Reserve Act](#), which aims to ensure the maintenance of reserves for vital drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients, to fortify the supply chain against disruptions stemming from shortages or public health emergencies.

Download HDA's [Policy Agenda](#) and [Guiding Principles](#) to learn more about the distribution industry's proposed solutions to mitigate drug shortages.

For more information, contact [Nicolette Louissaint](#).

HDA Blog Spotlights ERG Leaders for Women's History Month

A new [Perspectives blog](#) features a Q&A discussion with Rhonda Woloshun, Senior Operations Manager for Cencora, and Sarah Flanigan, Vice President Trade Relations for WG Critical Care, LLC, who are volunteer co-assistant leads of HDA's industry-wide Women's Employee Network (WEN) employee resource group (ERG).

Woloshun and Flanigan share their reasons for participating in and leading this group, goals and hopes for the future and more about this unique ERG opportunity for HDA members.

"I've led women's ERGs across three companies in the last decade, and few things are more rewarding than helping a woman step into a space she didn't believe she could (but was more than qualified for)!" remarked Woloshun about why she chose to participate.

When asked about her vision for the group, Flanigan spoke about the diversity of the growing community. "Through our ERG, we've discussed the importance of capturing all voices with the goal of ensuring we focus on content that represents all members," she said.

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Headlines

[AAM: Avalere Study Shows PBMs Continue To Block Patient Access to Biosimilars](#)

*Drug Store News,
March 25, 2024*

[Congress Passes \\$1.2T Spending Bill That Includes HHS Funding](#)

*Modern Healthcare
(Subscription Required),
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