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Statement from Pharmacists for Healthier Lives in Support of the United States Postal Service and the Important Role it Plays in Advancing Medication Adherence

“The recent threats posed to the United States Postal Service (USPS) have consequences beyond the political world. They affect Americans' ability to conduct business, connect with loved ones, and, most importantly, manage healthcare needs for themselves and their families.

"Specifically, a reduction of mail service can delay delivery of vital prescription drugs, and this may put patients' lives at risk. According to the National Association of Letter Carriers, the USPS shipped 1.2 billion prescriptions in 2019. This accounted for 20 percent of all prescriptions filled in the U.S. last year. And this was before a pandemic that required people with pre-existing conditions to avoid leaving their homes.

“Lack of medication adherence contributes to more than 125,000 preventable deaths and costs our healthcare system \$100 - \$300 billion each year. As medication experts, pharmacists are acutely aware of how important it is for patients to have access to medications when they need it. We also see the harm it causes when patients are unable to receive their medications, which can lead to relapse, hospital readmittance, and even death.

“We call on the Trump Administration and Congress to work together to fully fund the USPS and remove any barriers that may prevent patients from receiving the life-saving medications they need and deserve.”