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75<sup>th</sup> House District  
**Sponsor Testimony- House Concurrent Resolution 29**  
**House Agriculture Committee**  
**November 18, 2020**

Chairman Koehler, Vice-Chair Smith, Ranking Member Brent, and the members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 29. This bill calls on the Food and Drug Administration to take action to prevent drug shortages.

Last year, there was a shortage of an important cancer treatment drug. This caused alarm among patients, their families, doctors, and pharmacists alike. A shortage of a drug like that could mean delayed treatment, missed doses, anxiety about running out before supplies are replenished, and major hurdles for manufacturers and distributors to handle. Luckily, the creator of the drug was able to ramp up production and hospitals coordinated their supplies to avoid major disruptions to patient care.

Unfortunately, this scenario plays out more often than many think. There are currently 121 drugs on the FDA shortage list. The number of drug shortages has grown in recent years, and the COVID-19 pandemic has escalated this growth, with many potential COVID-19 treatments quickly going into shortage status.

There are major consequences to drug shortages including delayed medical treatments and procedures, substitution of medications, rationing of medications, and increased complications leading to hospitalization. Drug shortages increase health care costs and burden health care providers.

This resolution seeks to lower the frequency of drug shortages and calls on the federal government to:

- Enhance the methods and procedures for monitoring and assessing risks to the supply of critical drugs
- Establish incentives to encourage the production of drugs at risk of shortage
- Introduce necessary safeguards to prevent future drug shortages

It is time for action to solve our country's drug shortage problems. H.C.R. 29 will send a message to the federal government that the time is now to address widespread drug shortages.