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**Local Pharmacist Lobbies Congress
to Protect Access to Bioidentical Hormones**

Castle Rock, CO – Compounding pharmacists from across the nation stormed Capitol Hill this month to lobby members of Congress to protect access to commonly compounded bioidentical hormones. Allan Jolly, of ITC Compounding & Natural Wellness Pharmacy in Castle Rock, CO, made the trip to Washington, D.C. While meeting with various elected officials and their staff, Mr. Jolly discussed the value of pharmacy compounding and bioidentical hormone replacement therapy (BHRT). Earlier this year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asserted a new policy to deny women’s access to bioidentical hormones.

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, the number one manufacturer of synthetic hormone products, petitioned the FDA to restrict the compounding of medications containing estriol, an estrogen produced by the human body. Like many commonly prescribed drugs, estriol has a monograph from the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP), but is not a component of an FDA-approved drug. When it passed the FDA Modernization Act in 1997, Congress clearly indicated that drugs with a USP monograph could be compounded.

“This trip gave us a chance to have our voices heard by members of Congress,” said Mr. Jolly. “With help from thousands of patients and prescribers who called and wrote their members of Congress, our voices were heard loud and clear on Capitol Hill.”

The trip to Washington, D.C., dubbed Compounders on Capitol Hill, was the 14th annual trip coordinated by the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP). It was Mr. Jolly’s 1st time joining the group.

ITC Pharmacy’s visit to Congress came at a particularly critical time for their pharmacy and similar compounding pharmacies across the country. Last month several key representatives introduced H. Con. Res. 342. The bipartisan resolution states that “the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) new policy restricting women’s access to medications containing estriol does not serve the public interest” and called on the FDA to “reverse its policy.” Pharmacists were greeted with an overwhelming sense of support from their members of Congress regarding H. Con. Res. 342.

“This is an important step for compounding pharmacies like ours. We fill an important void for hundreds of thousands of women whose needs can’t be met by manufactured medicines. They rely on us and I simply don’t know where they would get the medicines they need if we couldn’t compound with bioidentical hormones anymore” said, Allan Jolly, R. Ph, at ITC Pharmacy.

Pharmacy compounding is a pharmacy practice that enables doctors to prescribe customized pharmaceutical treatments for patients when one-size-fits-all manufactured products are inappropriate. While pharmacy compounding is regulated by state boards of pharmacy, pharmaceutical manufacturers are pushing for onerous, federal restrictions that would restrict patients' access to needed medications.

About ITC Compounding & Natural Wellness Pharmacy

ITC Compounding & Natural Wellness Pharmacy was established in 1994 and provides customers with numerous natural and holistic options to medicinal needs. With the latest laboratory equipment and highest grade of ingredients, our Pharmacists can formulate customized medications specific to your needs. By customizing each formula, ITC is able to create precise dosages and ideal preparations that will best be absorbed and tolerated specifically for you while ensuring optimal results. The staff and pharmacists at ITC Pharmacy care about your overall wellness and will work with you to achieve the results you are looking for.

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