In politics, compromise is a dirty word. In the legislature, compromise is not just important, it’s critical to passing good legislation. Legislation unilaterally supported by one party or the other is often plagued with unintended consequences, which all seem to fall on the backs of Nevada’s businesses. The job of your RAN team is to work with legislators on both sides of the aisle to strike a deal that protects Nevada's pro-business reputation while working to make our government more effective and efficient for its citizens.

Compromise doesn’t have to be bad, and your RAN team is working to build consensus for good public policy on several issues this session:

- **Public Health:** Pharmacy is one of the many faces of retail in Nevada, and RAN is supporting several bills to help Nevadans get access to the prescription drugs they need. RAN is supporting Assembly Bill 178 that would help Nevadans access their prescription refills during emergencies, and Senate Bill 190 to allow pharmacies to dispense hormonal contraceptives without a prescription. Liz MacMenamin has included more information about SB190 and other bills related to the practice of pharmacy in her April newsletter article.

- **Business:** Senator Ohrenschein’s Senate Bill 107 will review and update Nevada’s business laws, and Assembly Bill 184 will create an Office of Small Business Advocacy to help support Nevada businesses.

- **Taxation:** RAN is working with legislators on Senate Bill 25 to modernize the sales and use taxes on food for human consumption, bringing Nevada’s laws more in line with federal and other states. RAN is also supporting Senate Bill 167 to lower the cost to employers that need to appeal their sales tax bills.

Continued on page 2.
Retailers Express Concern About OSHA Emergency Regulation Regarding COVID-19

The National Retail Federation expressed concern about a possible Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) emergency temporary standard regarding COVID-19. NRF urged OSHA to continue to issue industry-specific guidance concerning COVID-19.

“Over the past year, retailers have taken extraordinary precautions to protect the health and safety of customers and employees during this global health crisis,” said NRF Senior Vice President of Government Relations David French. “NRF has worked extensively with the CDC, OSHA and state and local health agencies to ensure that retailers continue to utilize safety protocols and standards that in many cases exceed government-issued regulations.”

In January, President Biden issued an executive order directing OSHA, which is responsible for establishing workplace requirements, to issue emergency temporary standards for COVID-19 by March 15.

NRF is concerned about the possibly of OSHA issuing a rigid, one-size-fits-all emergency regulation, particularly during a global pandemic that has already imposed substantial economic hardship on businesses. An OSHA regulation — especially one promulgated without the benefit of the normal notice and comment process — could distract from retailers’ existing safety efforts that are effectively protecting employees and customers from the dangers of COVID-19.

NRF submitted a statement ahead of the House Committee on Education and Labor hearing on “Clearing the Air: Science-Based Strategies to Protect Workers from COVID-19 Infections.”

The Art of the Compromise

In addition to these bills, RAN is also working with legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle to modernize Nevada’s sales taxes by acknowledging that consumers are increasingly turning to digital versions of products, like music, movies, and books. Because of the makeup of the legislature, this bill only passes if legislators from both political parties work together. Nevada’s sales tax laws were written long before the internet, but today, more and more consumers are purchasing products online for convenience, and even Nevada consumers agree that our state’s sales tax laws aren’t keeping up.

The one similarity of all of these bills are sponsors open to hearing feedback to ensure good public policy without unintended consequences. Compromise is an art; it requires mutual respect and a commitment to the process to pass good legislation. This is not our final list of legislation that we are supporting because your RAN team is working hard in Carson City to open doors and dialogue with bill sponsors to ensure your voices are heard and your needs and concerns understood. The legislators who understand the art of the compromise, regardless of party, are the legislators we need to support and keep in Carson City doing good work for the people and businesses of Nevada.
2021 Legislation Regarding Practice of Pharmacy

By Liz Macmenamin

SB 229

Senator Julia Ratti is sponsoring legislation this session regarding the practice of pharmacy. Her bill, SB 229, amends statute to regulate the collaborative practice of pharmacy and collaborative drug therapy management.

When enacted, it will classify pharmacists as health care providers. This bill expands and clarifies the current language for the collaborative practice agreement language passed in 2017.

SB 229 applies to pharmacists and practitioners who enter into collaborative agreements and removes existing requirements for the collaborative practice of pharmacy and collaborative drug therapy management.

This measure instead prohibits a practitioner from entering into a collaborative practice agreement with a pharmacist that authorizes the pharmacist to engage in an activity that is outside the practitioner’s scope of practice.

SB 229 also removes a requirement that a pharmacist obtain the patient’s consent before engaging in the collaborative practice of pharmacy or collaborative drug therapy management.

The language will remove the provision limiting collaborative drug therapy management to patients who are in a medical facility or affiliated setting.

This measure also sets forth what the written guidelines and protocols for collaborative drug therapy must contain. Guidelines and protocols must include a description of the types of decisions that the pharmacist is authorized to make; the training the pharmacist is required to complete; procedures that the pharmacist is required to follow when initiating or modifying drug therapy or making other therapeutic decisions; and procedures for the practitioner to provide feedback.

SB 229 classifies licensed pharmacists as health care providers for purposes of (1) requiring a health care provider who renders services who has or is suspected to have a communicable disease or having suffered a drug overdose to report that fact to the appropriate health authority; (2) requiring a health care provider to take certain measure to cooperate with an investigation by the health authority concerning infectious disease or exposure; and (3) authorizing a health authority to take certain actions against a health care provider who has significantly contributed to a case of an infectious disease or exposure to a biological, radiological, or chemical agent.

RAN is supporting this legislation and is working with the sponsor to amend the language to have the appropriate agency provide oversight. The Board of Pharmacy is the

Continued on page 4

realistically indicated just how problematic this shortage can be for access to health care for the citizens here in our state. This legislation is a positive step in addressing some of these inadequacies Nevada experienced and will continue to experience with the projected population growth in our state.

SB 190

Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro introduced SB 190 which will allow a pharmacist to dispense self-administered hormonal contraceptives to any patient, and will require the State Plan for Medicaid and certain health insurance plans to provide certain benefits relating to self-administered hormonal contraceptives.

Pharmacists are highly trained professionals, with a doctorate degree, who are knowledgeable about treatment of diseases with appropriate medications. RAN is supporting this legislation and is working with the sponsor to amend the language to have the appropriate agency provide oversight. The Board of Pharmacy is the
February Retail Sales Show Strong Year-Over-Year Growth as Vaccine and Stimulus Provide a Boost

NRF

Retail sales gained considerable year-over-year traction in February — despite a monthly slowdown from unusually high numbers in January — as increased COVID-19 vaccination, government stimulus and reduced restrictions on businesses continued to impact the pace of spending, the National Retail Federation said today.

“February’s retail sales numbers are a minor speed bump on the road to post-pandemic recovery and are not a reflection of consumers’ willingness and ability to spend and drive the economy,” NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said. “A number of factors contributed to these results, including major snowstorms in the northeast and unprecedented ice storms in the south, but they do not diminish the stimulus-related growth we saw in January or what we expect to see as additional stimulus relief hits consumer bank accounts in the weeks ahead.

Looking forward to the spring and with consumer confidence at its highest level since last March, we remain optimistic that retail will help facilitate a surge in spending, job growth and capital investment in the second half of the year as more Americans are vaccinated and local economies reopen nationwide. “After January’s strong showing, we expected some payback in the form of lower figures in February by comparison,” NRF Chief Economist Jack Kleinhenz said. “Despite that, it’s hard to see this as a setback when you consider how large the year-over-year gains are and that sales are well above pre-pandemic levels. February had winter storms that impacted consumers’ ability to get out and shop, and the IRS’ delay in when it started accepting tax returns pushed back the release of refunds. But increased vaccinations and reductions in restrictions allowed more people to venture out and government stimulus gave them more money to spend. Overall, February’s results confirm that consumers are willing to spend as the virus situation improves and continued government stimulus further strengthens the economic backdrop. With another round of stimulus checks being mailed right now, we expect another large boost in consumer spending over the next few months.”

The U.S. Census Bureau today said overall retail sales in February were down 3 percent seasonally adjusted from January but up 6.3 percent year-over-year. That compares with a monthly increase of 7.6 percent in January.

Continued on page 11

2021 Legislation

Continued from page 3

agency charged with regulating and disciplining pharmacy practice and RAN believes that this would be the appropriate agency to have oversight. This is a preview of bills that RAN is supporting. There are other bills that RAN has testified in opposition to, such as AB 177. We are working with the sponsor, Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, on behalf of our members, to address the concerns with her language. If you have any questions or concerns regarding legislation affecting pharmacy practice during the 2021 session, please contact Liz MacMenamin by email at lizm@rannv.org or call 775-720-2528.
MARGARET THATCHER ONCE QUIPPED, “The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money”. This is an easy ditty to use against those, mainly democrats, who believe government has a role in relieving the suffering of citizens in time of crisis. The reality is both parties, on a national level, have freely spent other people’s money.

One may have a hard time saying the republicans are socialists, but they are equally guilty.

For example, Republicans cut taxes by two trillion dollars without any corresponding spending cuts. As a result, the U.S. borrowed money to fill the gap. They spent other people’s money.

Democrats, on the other hand, have a long history spending money to help people, while at the same time, lacking the fiscal discipline to pay for the programs they have enacted. They, too, have spent other people’s money.

Circumstances and political philosophies are at the heart of the issue, but, both parties, to be sure, have demonstrated a lack of fiscal discipline. We would all be wise to not throw rocks while we live in glass houses.

Recently, Nevada has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of President Biden’s $1.9 trillion dollar stimulus plan. In the short term the plan is good for Nevada. However, in the long term we would be wise to remember it is borrowed money which adds to the humungous debt our county has amassed. Eventually, the accumulated debt will have to be removed from our country’s balance sheet – this may happen in an orderly or disruptive manner. At the present moment though, Nevada will receive approximately $4.3 billion dollars to help us get over the fiscal ramifications of the COVID-19 crisis. Of this the state will receive $2.9 billion with the remainder generally going to counties, cities, and schools.

This stimulus money will now turn a half billion-dollar state budget deficit into a $2.5 billion-dollar surplus. Counties, cities, and schools will be made whole. Life will go on, and, given increased vaccinations, we will soon look at the pandemic in the rear-view mirror.

However, legislators will soon have choices to make as to how they spend the extra money. They have a self-imposed budget deadline of May 15th. Supposedly, all will be resolved by that time.

Yet, there will differences on how to spend the $2.5 billion dollar surplus.

Some will want to spend the money on one-time purchases while others will want to create new programs. Certainly, reasonable cases will be made for either type of expenditure.

You can be sure RAN will be watching and offering input into how the money might eventually be spent.

Bryan Wachter, our Sr. V.P. for government affairs, affirms RAN’s commitment is to use the money as one time spending verses creating new programs which will need additional funding in future years.

It makes sense, our state constitution demands we balance our budget rather than borrow to finance day to day state operations.

Nevada is fortunate to have received a rescue from the federal government. Without it we would certainly experience more pain and suffering. However, we all ought to keep in mind that nothing is ever free, eventually we will have to pay back the national debt, and that will certainly be painful for everybody.
Retail Imports Expected to Hit Repeated Monthly Records After Record Year in 2020

Following a record year during 2020, imports at the nation’s largest retail container ports are expected to set new monthly records from now into the summer as the nation’s economy continues to recover from the pandemic, according to the monthly Global Port Tracker report released today by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates.

“The import numbers we’re seeing reflect retailers’ expectations for consumer demand to the point that many factories in Asia that normally close for Chinese New Year this month are remaining open to keep up,” NRF Vice President for Supply Chain and Customs Policy Jonathan Gold said.

“Regardless of whether it’s in-store or on retailers’ websites, the record holiday season and numbers for 2020 show consumers are buying again and have been for a while. This surge has been going on for months, and retailers are importing merchandise faster than ever.”

Retail sales during the November-December holiday season in 2020 hit a record $789.4 billion, up 8.3 percent from 2019, and preliminary figures show retail sales for all of 2020 were up 6.8 percent year-over-year.

“As we continue to struggle with COVID-19 and the ups and downs in the economy, year-over-year increases in the flow of containerized goods have become dramatic,” Hackett Associates Founder Ben Hackett said.

“It is impressive that the cargo volumes handled by the ports remain as high as they are despite congestion at the docks and the spread of the coronavirus among workers throughout the supply chain.”

U.S. ports covered by Global Port Tracker handled 2.11 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units in December, the latest month for which final numbers are available. That was up 0.2 percent from November and up 22.3 percent year-over-year. A TEU is one 20-foot container or its equivalent.

That brought 2020 to a total of 22 million TEU, up 1.9 percent from 2019’s 21.6 million TEU and beating the previous record of 21.8 million TEU recorded in 2018.

January results aren’t available yet but the month was projected at 2.08 million TEU, which would be up 14.6 percent over the same month last year and the busiest January since NRF began tracking imports in 2002, topping 1.89 million TEU in January 2019.

February is forecast at 1.91 million TEU, up 26.3 percent year-over-year. March is forecast at 1.93 million TEU, up an unprecedented 41 percent from March 2020, when factories in China failed to reopen because of the coronavirus.

April is forecast at 1.82 million TEU, up 13.3 percent year-over-year; May at 1.9 million TEU, up 23.8 percent, and June also at 1.9 million TEU, up 18.2 percent.

Each month from January through June would be a record for the month, and the first half of 2021 is forecast at 11.5 million TEU, up 22.1 percent from the same period in 2020, which experienced a major decline in imports due to the impact of COVID-19.
WALMART PROMISES RAISES FOR 425,000 WORKERS

Walmart said it would raise pay for hourly U.S. workers to an average above $15 an hour. This after a strong holiday season and year boosted pandemic online sales.

At the time of this article Walmart stock fell 6% in trading. Raises will affect 425,000 U.S. employees.

It is interesting to note the Biden's administration's plan to raise the federal minimum wage to $15 dollars per hour, although the proposal did not make it as part of the $1.9 trillion dollar stimulus plan.

Walmart Chief Executive Doug McMillon said the company supports raising the federal minimum but there are parts of the country that should be lower than others, and increases should be paced out.

The company is keeping its starting wage at $11 an hour. The country’s largest private employer said its more-targeted raises would increase pay for its hourly U.S. workers to an average above $15 an hour, up from an average above $14 in January 2020.

Walmart employs about 1.5 million hourly U.S. workers and 2.2 million people world-wide.

WSJ

WALGREENS GIVES THREE MILLION VACCINATIONS

Walgreens has given more than 3 million COVID-19 vaccinations. For the most part, these were given to those in long-term care facilities and vulnerable populations.

The news comes as Walgreens has begun administering in-store vaccinations in many locations as part of the federal vaccination program.

The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program is being undertaken in addition to Walgreens’ work directly with states and jurisdictions to administer COVID-19 vaccine allocations in store and at off-site clinics.

Drug Store News

WALMART LAUNCHES COVID-19 VACCINE DRIVE

Walmart is hosting a series of community events across the country to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

This in an effort to increase vaccination rates in vulnerable communities. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing Walmart with an allocation of the vaccine for this new effort, which Walmart is launching in partnership with local community leaders and nonprofit organizations.

These new events mark an expansion of Walmart’s role with the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program and are supplementing the retailer’s ongoing vaccination program at more than 1,400 pharmacies nationwide in 35 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., through federal and state efforts.

Walmart plans to continue these new events over the next several weeks as vaccine allocations allow and is currently planning them in the following states: Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

People can use the digital scheduler at walmart.com/COVIDvaccine.

Mass Market Retailers

TARGET WILL INVEST $4 BILLION ON STORE EXPANSION AND REMODELS

Target Corp. will build on its record 2020 sales growth by making big annual investments to continue scaling capabilities across its online and brick-and-mortar retail platform.

Target plans to invest $4 billion per year. This will include opening up to 40 stores, store remolds, and to enhance its fulfillment centers and strengthen its supply chain. Target is coming off a record year during which its sales grew more than $15 billion, greater than its total sales growth during the prior 11 years.

Chain Store Age
UTILIZING PHARMACISTS: COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENTS

Nevada's access to Health Care

- Ranked 45th In the country for healthcare access
- Ranked 48th In the country for primary care physicians per 100,000 population
- 9.7% Nevadans reside in the state's rural counties
- 90% Patients live within 5 miles of a community pharmacy

Role of the Pharmacist

Pharmacists are highly trained professionals, with a doctorate degree, who are knowledgeable about treatment of diseases with appropriate medications.

2,470 Pharmacists ready to step up
STRENGTHEN YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Dr. Traci Biondi, Chief Medical Officer, Prominence Health Plan

CONSIDERING THE VERY IMPORTANT WORK OF our immune system, most of us want to do all that we can to assist and improve its readiness for battle, so to speak.

It’s hard to say definitively if there is a link between immune system boosting activities and enhanced immune function. There is a lot of research that evaluates the impact of things like diet, exercise, sleep, age, stress levels and other factors in terms of immune response.

What we do know is that we can help to foster a healthy immune system by protecting it from environmental assaults.

There are simple ways to bolster and strengthen your immune system by adopting healthy living strategies.

1. Take general steps to avoid exposure to infection — Wash hands frequently, cook meats thoroughly and stay up to date with recommended immunizations.

2. Don’t smoke. If you do smoke, get help to quit. — Smoking negatively impacts both innate immunity and adaptive immunity. It is the number one cause of lung cancer and is associated with a number of cardiac and pulmonary diseases. It also increases susceptibility to a variety of other diseases.

3. Get some sleep — Lack of sleep is associated with negative effects on the immune system. Research suggests that sleep deprivation interferes with the ability of the immune system to function normally making people more likely to catch a cold or the flu. And for those people who are able to function on very little sleep, keep in mind that the immune system does not adapt or get used to this. Instead, with a continued lack of sleep, there is a chronic low-grade inflammation which negatively impacts long term health.

4. Diet, exercise, and maintain a healthy weight — Being sedentary makes you vulnerable to infection. Regular, moderate exercise enhances the immune system and reduces the risk of infection.

Eat a balanced diet and avoid nutritional deficiencies.

Work on dietary improvements before adding vitamins or supplements. A beneficial strategy is to eat more fruits and vegetables as part of a healthy and balanced diet.

Excess fat negatively impacts the immune system and is associated with low-grade chronic inflammation. This inflammation promotes coronary artery disease and contributes to insulin resistance and immune system dysfunction.
Important Information for SIG Members

NRS requires all existing members of a self-insured group to be notified of all new members. NRNSIG new members are listed below.

Amazing Brands Stephen Siegel
Capstone Christian Academy
Golden Painting LLC dba Coit Cleaning & Restoration of LV

Why Does the Easter Bunny Bring Eggs?

Since rabbits are mammals (and thus give birth to live young), you might be wondering why exactly the Easter Bunny is said to lay eggs on the holiday. The answer may be as simple as the fact that eggs, like the rabbit, have long been an ancient symbol of fertility, rebirth, and new life — all things associated with the springtime celebration of Easter!

NRNSIG members who wish to register a negative vote on a new group member, please write NRNSIG at 575 S. Saliman Road, Carson City, NV 89701, indicating which member and the reason(s) for the negative vote.

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Talk with one of Pro Group’s specialists today. Give them a call at (800) 859-3177, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or email at info@pgmnv.com.

Retail Association of Nevada • www.rannv.org
Organizers Work to Unionize Alabama Amazon Location

Organizers are working to organize nearly 6,000 Alabama warehouse workers in Alabama. President Biden said he was watching and indicated his support. While Biden did not specifically name Amazon, it was clear he was talking about Amazon. Biden said, "Workers in Alabama — and all across America — are voting on whether to organize a union in their workplace," he tweeted, along with an accompanying video. "It's a vitally important choice — one that should be made without intimidation or threats by employers." A union victory in Alabama has the potential to change things for those running large warehouses. Amazon is not supportive of the union's efforts.

Vox News

February Retail Sales  Continued from page 4

percent and a yearly gain of 9.5 percent in January. Despite occasional month-over-month declines, sales have grown year-over-year every month since June, according to Census data.

NRF's calculation of retail sales — which excludes automobile dealers, gasoline stations and restaurants to focus on core retail — showed February was down 3.4 percent seasonally adjusted from January but up 7.1 percent unadjusted year-over-year.

That compared with an increase of 7.7 percent month-over-month and an increase of 12.7 percent year-over-year in January.

NRF's numbers were up 8.9 percent unadjusted year-over-year on a three-month moving average.

February's gains come as NRF is forecasting that 2021 retail sales will increase between 6.5 percent and 8.2 percent over 2020, for a total between $4.33 trillion and $4.4 trillion.

Retail sales during 2020 increased 6.6 percent despite the pandemic, beating the previous record growth rate of 6.3 percent in 2004.

February retail sales fell in every category except groceries, which were unchanged, on a month-over-month basis. But sales were up in two-thirds of categories on a year-over-year basis, which provides a better indicator of long-term trends and the state of the economy. Specifics from key retail sectors include:

- Online and other non-store sales were down 5.4 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted but up 23.5 percent unadjusted year-over-year.
- Building materials and garden supply stores were down 3 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted but up 11.4 percent unadjusted year-over-year.
- Sporting goods stores were down 7.5 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted but up 11 percent unadjusted year-over-year.
- Grocery and beverage stores were unchanged month-over-month seasonally adjusted but up 7.2 percent unadjusted year-over-year.
- Furniture and home furnishings stores were down 3.8 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted but up 5.1 percent unadjusted year-over-year.
- Health and personal care stores were down 1.3 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted but up 2.4 percent unadjusted year-over-year.
- General merchandise stores were down 5.4 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted but unchanged unadjusted year-over-year.
- Electronics and appliance stores were down 1.9 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted and down 6.7 percent unadjusted year-over-year.
- Clothing and clothing accessory stores were down 2.8 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted and down 14.9 percent unadjusted year-over-year.
Target is Launching Another Powerhouse Grocery Brand

Progressive Grocer

Target is launching a new grocery brand that is chock full of the innovative food products of tomorrow.

On April 5, the retailer plans to debut Favorite Day, a new owned food and beverage brand. The Favorite Day assortment will include more than 700 sweet and savory products spanning categories such as bakery, trail mix, ice cream, snacks and more, all priced below $15.

Favorite Day will expand on Target’s portfolio of private brands and build on the success of Good & Gather, Target’s flagship food and beverage brand, launched in 2019, that is now generating $2 billion in annual sales. The Good & Gather assortment includes more than 2,000 products across food and beverage from dairy to produce, ready-made pastas and meats to granola bars and sparkling water.

All of the products under the Good & Gather brand are made without artificial flavors and sweeteners, synthetic colors and high fructose corn syrup, and are also backed by a money-back guarantee.

With the new launch, Target will now offer Good & Gather, Favorite Day and Market Pantry as its grocery private labels.