

Senator Donna Bailey, Chair

Representative Kristi Mathieson, Chair

Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

RE: Support for Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform – LD 180 An Act regarding the Interactions of Pharmacy Benefits Managers and So-Called 340B Entities and reimbursements by Pharmacy Benefits Managers to Pharmacies

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Matheson and Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

As a community pharmacist and owner of Spruce Mountain Pharmacy in Jay, I am writing to express my strong support for the reform of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) in LD 180. The current PBM business model undermines the sustainability of independent pharmacies, restricts patient access to care, and drives up healthcare costs.

PBMs hold significant, largely unchecked power in the healthcare system, influencing reimbursement rates, patient access to medications, and the cost of prescription drugs. Their practices often leave community pharmacies facing reimbursement rates below the cost of acquiring and dispensing medications. Such unsustainable practices are causing pharmacies to close, leading to the creation of pharmacy deserts and limiting access to care for vulnerable populations.

Independent pharmacies are a cornerstone of local healthcare, offering accessible services such as prescription medications, health screenings, medication management, and more—often without the need for an appointment. In Maine we are witnessing a growing pharmacy desert where timely access to pharmaceutical care is getting harder for residents in rural communities. However, the lack of transparency and accountability in PBM operations threatens our ability to continue serving our communities effectively.

Reforming PBM practices would not only protect community pharmacies but also ensure fair competition, improve patient outcomes, and reduce overall healthcare costs. We are asking for the PBM's to compensate pharmacies a fair and reasonable price for the pharmaceutical care we are providing. This reform is critical to preserving equitable access to pharmaceutical care for patients in Maine.

I urge you to support meaningful PBM reform to safeguard the future of independent community pharmacies and the essential services we provide. Thank you for considering this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Maki, Pharmacist / Owner
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