

April 21, 2021

Senator Heather Sanborn, Chair
Representative Denise Tepler, Chair
Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

RE: Testimony in support of LD 1450, An Act To Provide Fairness in Communications from Pharmacy Benefits Managers.

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Health Coverage and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Amy Downing and I am a resident of Smithfield and the Executive Director of the Maine Pharmacy Association. We have more than 200 members statewide and primarily represent individual pharmacists who are employed by both large national chain pharmacies and Maine-based independent pharmacies. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1450.

Independent pharmacies are proud to have longstanding relationships with their patients, often dating back for generations. Every week it seems that letters are being sent out by PBMs that can have confusing, and sometimes misleading, terminology regarding the locations where a patient may fill their prescriptions. Our pharmacists want to take care of their communities- not have to correct misleading mailers that lead their patients to believe that they must transfer their prescription records elsewhere to use their prescription insurance plans. These patients are often elderly and overwhelmed with these types of mailers.

My members tell me they feel fortunate when they are given the opportunity by the patient to educate them on their pharmacy options, because there are times they simply transfer to the affiliate pharmacy with no explanation. LD 1450 will be an important step to ensure that communication from pharmacy benefits manager is fair and more transparent to patients.

We thank Representative Tepler for shining a light on this practice and introducing this legislation. If you have further questions please don't hesitate to reach out as we have a wonderful network of Independent Pharmacies who would be happy to shed additional light on this important issue.



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