



April 21, 2021

The Honorable Senator Sanborn Senate Chair, Representative Tepler House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Cross Building, Room 220
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: LD 1450 An Act To Provide Fairness in Communications from Pharmacy Benefits Managers; Oppose

Dear Chair Sanborn, Chair Tepler, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA), I am writing you to provide our comments opposing LD 1450 (pharmacy communications). PCMA is the national association representing pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which administer prescription drug plans for millions of Americans with health coverage provided through large and small employers, health plans, labor unions, state and federal employee-benefit plans, and government programs.

PBMs exist to make drug coverage more affordable by aggregating the buying power of millions of enrollees through their plan sponsor/payer clients. PBMs help consumers obtain lower prices for prescription drugs through price discounts from retail pharmacies, rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers, and using lower-cost dispensing channels. Though employers, health plans, and public programs are not required to use PBMs, most choose to because PBMs help lower the costs of prescription drug coverage.

PCMA appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on LD 1450. Health plans design networks of independent, chain, mail-order, and specialty pharmacies to provide patients with access to a range of high-quality pharmacies, while balancing savings for patients and payers. These preferred networks include both affiliate and non-affiliate pharmacies and members are notified of this list on the PBM website under the explanation of benefits. To balance savings for patients and payers, PBMs require pharmacies to compete on service, price, convenience, and quality to be included in certain preferred networks. Pharmacies that agree to participate in such arrangements are designated "preferred" and become members of that network. If the intent of this bill is to create a more equitable level of pharmacy advertisement the list of both affiliated and non-affiliated pharmacies is located on the member website. If the intent is to deter the advertisement of one pharmacy over another, why shouldn't plans encourage members to make the best use of their pharmacy networks to help control costs?



PCMA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to oppose LD 1450. We would be happy to work with the bill sponsor and key stakeholders on this bill.

Sam Hallemeier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Hallemeier".

Director, State Affairs
shallemeier@pcmanet.org
(202) 756-5727