

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Heather Sanborn
Chair, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION SUPPORT OF LD 1450

Dear Chair Sanborn and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

I am writing on behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association in support of LD 1450. This bill will give Maine patients greater authority over their healthcare decisions by protecting them from misleading pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) communications.

NCPA represents the interest of America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 21,000 independent community pharmacies across the United States and 54 independent community pharmacies in Maine. These Maine pharmacies filled over 3 million prescriptions last year, impacting the lives of thousands of patients in your state.

Misleading communications from PBMs can usurp a patient's authority to make his or her own healthcare decisions by leading patients to believe they must utilize a PBM-owned pharmacy, often a mail-order pharmacy. When this happens, the patient is forced to make healthcare decisions based on the PBM's bottom line, instead of the patient's health. Under this bill, a PBM would be prohibited from providing customers information that only mentions the PBM's affiliated pharmacies. This provision will help ensure patients have more information to make decisions that are in the patient's best interest, instead of what's in the PBM's best interest.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your support of LD 1450. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter or wish to discuss the issue in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at matthew.magner@ncpa.org or (703) 600-1186.

Sincerely,



Matthew Magner
Director, State Government Affairs