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Dear Rhode Island House of Representatives or Senate  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Subject: Support for Rhode Island Bill 7139

I am writing to express my strong support for Rhode Island Bill 7139, which addresses the crucial issue of preserving the rights and representation of independent voters in our state. The provisions outlined in the bill, such as regulating PBM reimbursement rates, increasing transparency in pricing, and preventing unfair business practices, are essential for protecting the livelihoods of independent pharmacies and the communities they serve. By passing this legislation, Rhode Island has an opportunity to stand against the monopolistic tendencies of PBMs and reinforce the importance of diverse and community-focused healthcare options.

Independent pharmacies are a backbone in the community offering services not widely available at big corporate pharmacies. Unfortunately large corporate pharmacies have adopted the principle of automating everything including not having a human to answer phone calls. This plays a detrimental role in the healthcare of disabled and elderly patients who struggle with everything being digital. This would normally create an environment for independent pharmacies who offer more personalized service to flourish, however large corporations have taken ownership of the PBM's to reduce their reimbursement to below the cost of the drug. This entire model is designed to reimburse independent pharmacies less while corporate pharmacies line their pockets with taxpayer money.

As a resident of Rhode Island, I urge you to consider the long-term benefits that this legislation can bring to our democratic process and preserve the small business model America was founded on. By supporting Rhode Island Bill 7139, we are not only preserving the independence of voters but also sending a powerful message about the importance of inclusivity and fairness in our political system.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hasan Iqbal