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April 11, 2024

Thank you Chair Solomon and members of the House Corporations Committee.

My name is Ron Lanton and I represent the Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation (NPSC).

On behalf of NPSC, we stand united in support of our participating pharmacies behind both H.7720 An Act Relating to Insurance - Pharmacy Freedom of Choice - Fair Competition and Practices, and H8143 titled An Act Relating to Businesses and Profession - Pharmacies.

Regarding H7720, we need a way for pharmacists to get paid accurately. For too long we have tried the PBMs way where we do what their "take it or leave it" contracts say, which is to appeal all under reimbursement claims to these same PBMs. This is like asking the fox who is already guarding the hen house if the fox would share any hens the fox captures.

Passing this law will force the PBMs to use a reimbursement system rapidly being adopted by several states that is fair and no longer prone to manipulation.

We also support H8143. I help pharmacies in several states fight unfair PBM audits. Before Rhode Island's current law that we drafted, PBMs would claim fraud, take a pharmacy's money for a few months then give it back to them when it was proven there was no fraud. Many times, PBMs use time consuming audits as unfair fishing expeditions. This bill would limit that as virtually almost every state has passed fair audit provisions. This bill simply strengthens existing Rhode Island law.

I am available for questions and if the Committee feels as though it can help us facilitate a meeting with these PBMs to come to an amicable resolution on either of these matters we are open to it.

Best regards,  
Ron Lanton III, Esq.  
Government Affairs Director  
NPSC



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