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Dear Chair Donovan and First Vice Chair Giraldo and members and the Committee,

My name is Ron Lanton and I represent Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation (NPSC). The mission of NPSC is to provide business development services, individualized support, and strategic advocacy to independent community pharmacies.

On behalf of NPSC, we stand in support of H7189 / S2466.

Last year, we came before the legislature in support of SB 222, which proposed the use of a standard pricing metric known as the National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC), an objective benchmark updated on a monthly basis. That legislation did not pass.

That effort reflected a broader concern that continues today. Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) have increasingly relied on alternative and opaque reimbursement methodologies that lack consistency and transparency. These approaches often result in pharmacies being reimbursed below their actual acquisition cost, creating instability across the marketplace.

H7189 / S2466 takes a different approach by establishing guardrails around reimbursement practices. It provides the legislature with a framework to address unfair and discriminatory reimbursement without allowing those methodologies to shift in ways that continue to disadvantage independent pharmacies.

If passed, the legislation would:

- Require PBMs to reimburse pharmacies fairly for the same drugs and services
- Prohibit PBMs from favoring their own affiliated pharmacies over independent pharmacies
- Strengthen patient access and choice, allowing patients to continue using their local pharmacy
- Promote a more competitive and transparent pharmacy marketplace

For pharmacists across Rhode Island, this is about sustainability. When reimbursement falls below acquisition cost, pharmacies are forced to make decisions that ultimately impact patient access and continuity of care.

This legislation represents a meaningful step toward restoring balance and ensuring that pharmacies are treated fairly while patients continue to receive care in their communities.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support H7189 / S2466. NPSC remains available as a resource for any technical questions as this legislation moves forward.

Best regards,

Ron Lanton III, Esq.
Legislative Director
NPSC