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March 21, 2018

Mr. Louis W. Blessing, III
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street- 13th floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: **Government Accountability & Oversight Committee**
House Bill 479: Prescription Drug Co-Pay Integrity Act

Dear Chair Blessing:

We write this letter to express our strong interest and support for House Bill 479- the Prescription Drug Co-Pay Integrity Act. Ohioans deserve to know the cost of their medications- and Ohio's pharmacists should be able to share with their patients the cost of those medications.

Today- our pharmacists are **not permitted** to share with our patients any cost options they may have with their own medications. Cost options- that in many cases- **would reduce** the cost to them of those medications. House Bill 479 would remove these 'gag orders' that make it **against the law** for our pharmacists to share cost information. As a result- Ohioans do not know the true cost of their medications- and in many cases pharmacies do not know the true cost of the medications either because of fees or "clawbacks" charged later to them.

Pharmacy Benefit Managers or PBMs often clawback fees to pharmacies **many months- even years** after a medication is picked up at a pharmacy. These clawbacks make it impossible for us and our patients to know the true cost of medications. And- the uncertainty involving clawbacks has led to many pharmacy closings in Ohio- especially among smaller neighborhood pharmacies. House Bill

479 would prohibit any retroactive DIR clawback that isn't in the scope of fraud, error or abuse. House Bill 479 would also prohibit any DIR clawback in state plans like Medicaid.

Discount Drug Mart continues to be a family owned and operated company. Our founder- a pharmacist- opened our first location in 1969. Today- we have **73 locations throughout Ohio** that offer a wide range of products and services. We plan to open 2 more locations in 2018. Discount Drug Mart **employs more than 3,700 Ohioans**- including more than 235 pharmacists. Our pharmacists dispense more than 6 million prescriptions each year. We have been and will continue to be an important part of providing Ohioans with quality medical care.

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration. **We would urge you to support House Bill 479.** Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or if you need any additional information.

Respectfully-



Pete Ratycz, R.Ph.
Senior Vice President
Pharmacy Operations



Michael R. Eby
Chief Financial Officer



Steve Ferris
Government &
Public Affairs
Director

Cc Members of the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
Senate President Larry Obhof
Representative Steve Hambley