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April 8, 2019

Representative Derek Merrin
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
13th floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: House Bill 63: Prescription Drug Co-Pay Integrity Act

Dear Chair Merrin:

We write this letter to express our strong interest and support for House Bill 63- 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** under Ohio law 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 63 would remove these 'gag clauses' 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** 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. In January- Ritzman Pharmacies- an Ohio based pharmacy with 20 locations in Ohio closed its doors after going out of business. House Bill 63 would prohibit any retroactive DIR clawback that isn't in the scope of fraud, error or abuse. House Bill 63 would also prohibit any DIR clawback in state plans like Medicaid.

Discount Drug Mart is an Ohio based company with **75 locations in Ohio**. We are an employee owned company employing more than **4,000 Ohioans**. Our founder- a pharmacist- opened our first location in 1969. This year we celebrate our 50th year of being in business. Our pharmacies employ more than 235 pharmacists. Discount Drug Mart has been and will continue to be an important part of providing Ohioans with quality medical care and better health outcomes.

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration. **We would urge you to support House Bill 63.** 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



Steve Ferris
Government & Public Affairs Director

Cc Members of the House Health Committee
Senate President Larry Obhof
Representative Steve Hambley