

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 10/03/25

Name: Steve Ferris

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): Discount Drug Mart, Inc.

Position/Title: Government & Public Affairs Director

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☒ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 229

Specific Issue: Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☒ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? not applicable- submission is written only

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Discount Drug Mart supports HB 229- we have watched Ohio lose more than 200 pharmacies over the last 2 years due to the unfair reimbursement strategies and underhanded tactics of the pharmacy benefit managers. HB 229 will bring meaningful reform ensuring Ohioans access to their pharmacy and pharmacist.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.



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AN EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP COMPANY
www.discount-drugmart.com
The Stores That Save YOU The Runaround

October 3, 2025

Representative Sharon Ray
Chair- Ohio House General Government Committee
77 South High Street- 11th floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Discount Drug Mart Supports House Bill 229

Dear Chair Ray:

On behalf of Discount Drug Mart's 4,700 plus employees- including more than 250 pharmacists- operating 79 pharmacies and stores throughout Ohio- we write this letter to urge Members of the House General Government Committee to support House Bill 229. We believe House Bill 229 will result in meaningful pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reforms.

Today- just three pharmacy benefit managers **control more than 80% of all pharmacy networks and prescription drug claims in the United States.** Each year- these three largest PBMs appear on the Fortune 25 List of Largest Companies in the United States. These PBMs generated more than **\$400 billion in revenues** for 2024- up more than 10% from the previous year. What function does a PBM hold? They sit in the middle of the transaction between a pharmacy, its patient and the patient's insurance company.

In 2022- Ohio Medicaid moved to a single PBM contract creating a new system of paying for medications. **The result: a savings to Ohio taxpayers of \$140 million over 2 years.** And- dispensing fees and reimbursements paid to pharmacies have increased as well. The study was conducted by Milliman- Ohio Medicaid's actuarial firm. Please do not believe the hype and misinformation of increased insurance premiums by our opponents. They are only protecting their places on the Fortune 25 lists.

The reforms in House Bill 229 will move PBMs to dedicated chapter of the Insurance Code resulting in a more competitive marketplace- ensuring **better patient access** to medications. The drug cost reimbursement strategies and underhanded tactics of the PBMs have resulted in the closings of thousands of pharmacies in the United States over the last 7 years. **In Ohio- we have lost more than 200 pharmacies** over the last 2 years creating pharmacy deserts throughout Ohio. Attorney General Dave Yost has filed a lawsuit accusing the PBMs of illegally driving up the cost of medications. In many instances- **prescriptions we fill are below our cost to purchase.**

Discount Drug Mart is a great Ohio story. We are an employee owned company with 79 pharmacies and stores just in Ohio. Founded in 1969 by Parviz Boodjeh- a pharmacist- our pharmacists fill over 8,400,000 prescriptions yearly. We employ more than 4,700 Ohioans- including more than 250 pharmacists. We help patients use medicines correctly and safely- while offering innovative services that improve patient health outcomes and healthcare affordability.

We would urge you and the Members of the House General Government Committee to support House Bill 229.

Respectfully,



Don Boodjeh
Chief Executive Officer



John Gans
President



Steve Ferris
Government Affairs Director

Please Contact Steve Ferris if you have any questions or if you need any additional information. Steve can be reached by telephone (330-725-2340) or by email: sferris@discount-drugmart.com