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May 22, 2025

To: Senate Finance Committee

Re: Opposition to the Removal of the Current Single Pharmacy Benefit Manager for Ohio Medicaid

I am submitting written testimony to voice my concern over the potential change from the Ohio Medicaid's current single Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) to a model that utilizes multiple PBMs. Prior to Ohio Medicaid's adoption of the single PBM model in 2022, pharmacies were faced with unpredictable and often unprofitable reimbursement from the multiple PBMs. This model resulted in lower reimbursement to the pharmacies.

In addition to a lower reimbursement with no means of predictability at the pharmacy level, the State of Ohio found that spread pricing was occurring at the PBM level. Let's all remember that, in 2021, Centene settled with the State of Ohio for \$88.3 million to settle a lawsuit filed by Attorney General Dave Yost that alleged the PBM overbilled the Ohio Department of Medicaid for the pharmacy services that it provided. Why would the State want to return to such a model?? The single PBM must remain as it provides a pricing model that is based on actual drug costs that creates a fair and predictable reimbursement model.

Reverting back to a multiple PBM model has a very realistic chance to lower pharmacy reimbursement, which undoubtedly, will cause more pharmacies to close, furthering the very real pharmacy desert issue that currently provides lack of medication access and frontline care to many citizens in our great State of Ohio. In conclusion, I am writing to strongly advocate for the continuation of the single PBM model for Ohio Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Barry Klein, M.S., R.Ph.

President

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