



OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE
211 Commerce Drive
Medina, Ohio 44256-1398
(330) 725-2340

AN EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP COMPANY
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The Stores That Save **YOU** The Runaround!

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Cirino
Chair- Ohio Senate Finance Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Discount Drug Mart Supports PBM Reform Budget Amendment

Dear Chair Cirino:

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 Senate Finance Committee to support the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Reform Amendment in HB 96 as passed by the Ohio House of Representatives earlier this year. We believe the PBM Reform Amendment (or as some call it the Fair Reimbursement Amendment) will result in meaningful pharmacy benefit manager 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 **\$357.8 billion in revenues** for 2023- 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- State of 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 increased as well. The study was conducted by Milliman- State 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 this PBM Reform Amendment will result in a more competitive marketplace- and ensure **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 12 months 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 Senate Finance Committee to support the PBM Reform Budget Amendment in HB 96 as passed the Ohio House of Representatives.

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