

My name is Gaye Carafa and I my husband and I own an independent community pharmacy in Saint Paris, OH. We proudly serve a very rural community of 2,500 people in Champaign County. We are passionate about healthcare in an area that is seeing independent as well as chain pharmacy closures weekly. We were able to negotiate “rural contracts” with insurance companies because of the proximity of our store to others. Access to a pharmacy of any kind is limited. And the access is becoming more limited by the week with closures all around us.

I want to thank you for considering the language in HB 96 pertaining to PBM reform and urge you to pass the bill as presented. It is time for pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers to work TOGETHER for the citizens of this state. PBMs believe that they play a vital role in healthcare and we KNOW PHARMACIES play a vital role in healthcare.

I’m talking about citizens of Ohio like Pam. Pam was a patient of ours for 3 years. We have helped Pam with open enrollment and knew her financial struggles. One day in January she came into refill her prescriptions and told us that she could no longer fill her medications with us. She was upset and embarrassed that she would need to switch pharmacies. Her insurance made a zero-dollar copay if she filled her medications at CVS in a town that is a 20 MINUTE DRIVE one way! It would free up \$35 in her monthly budget. The insurance required a \$35 co pay at our pharmacy which was deemed “non preferred” by the PBM and \$0 co pay at CVS.

The obstacle now became Pam’s unreliable vehicle. In fact, Pam’s car broke down ON THE WAY TO PICK UP HER MEDS and guess who she called to help her? MY HUSBAND THE PHARMACIST at Saint Paris Pharmacy. AND guess who went to help her? Craig Carafa, RPH at Saint Paris Pharmacy. Who was the “preferred pharmacy” when Pam needed help?

Pam is just one story of the many we encounter on a daily basis of unfair practices, patient steering, and lower reimbursements for “non preferred pharmacies”. Who can this be? How can we let PBMs continue these unfair practices? PLEASE SEND AND PASS HB96 as it reads! You will save pharmacy access for all Ohioans.