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To Whom It Concerns,

My name is Kevin Secrest, pharmacy manager of Ryan Pharmacy in Toledo. We are a family owned and operated independent pharmacy serving the Toledo area since 1959. I am asking that you pass HB 96 as is. The language contained in this important bill is not perfect for my pharmacy, but I believe it is fair to all community pharmacy businesses.

IN 2022, Ohio changed their Medicaid model to the next generation Gainwell model. We were an innovator in this, and after 2 years this is saving the medicaid system over \$150 million dollars, while at the same time, reimbursing pharmacies at a predictable and fair level. Now we ask that you extend this to any insurance that wants to operate in the state of Ohio. We are seeing pharmacies close at a rate like never before. Just in 2024, 191 pharmacies closed. This represents almost 10% of all community pharmacies in the state. The number 1 reason given for closures has been shrinking margins on prescription medications, driven by the greed of the insurance middlemen, PBMs. The reimbursements have been unpredictable at best, unsustainable at worst.

As those pharmacies closed, it left some zip codes with no pharmacy for patients to fill needed life saving medications. Some entire towns were left in a "pharmacy desert" leaving patients to drive almost 40 minutes each way to obtain medication. This is no way for any citizen of the state to be treated. And by clearly defining the reimbursement model, it would allow a pharmacy to confidently open a new pharmacy to help fill these voids.

Our store struggled to make it through 2024, as our resources were strained like never before. These changes outlined in HB96 would be a pressure valve release needed so the whole system does not collapse. We were hopeful a federal change would have been in place by now, but the State of Ohio can show what true leaders we are and make these changes ourselves and follow the leads of states like Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, and many others, and take back control of our own healthcare from the likes a middleman, who is skimming off the top, and taking far more than they provide in services.

Thank you for your consideration in the matter

Kevin Secrest