

Chair Manchester, Vice-Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee, my name is Bryan Thompson, and I am a practicing pharmacist for 30 years & currently own The Medicine Shoppe and Resident Care Pharmacies in Urbana, Ohio.

I'm testifying in support of the fair pharmacy reimbursement provisions included in the House passed version of H.B. 96 that brings much needed Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform in Ohio. I personally testified for H.B. 505 in the 135th General Assembly because of how dire the situation has become for independent pharmacies like mine, and even retail & chain pharmacies. Since that time, another 191 community pharmacies closed in 2024, and I know of multiple pharmacies that closed this year alone.

The reality of the situation is this – the imminent closure of my pharmacy will result in 4,500 patients not having a local pharmacy to fill their prescriptions, creating a pharmacy desert that will stretch nearly the entire west central part of Ohio assuming fair pharmacy reimbursement provisions do not remain in HB 96.

Opponents of this bill say it will increase drug costs and stifle competition. In reality, fair pharmacy reimbursement provisions will allow competition to prevail and ensure critical healthcare access to patients throughout the state.

Legislation of this nature and some even more critical of the PBM's (i.e West Virginia, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee) has passed and study after study shows an increased savings for the government and employers alike. It has increased or at least saved businesses like mine and kept critically much needed access for seniors and disadvantaged patients. Those in opposition have been in existence for over 40 years and prescription drug prices have continued to increase and are higher here than in any other developed nation.

In summary, I urge the committee to keep the pharmacy provisions in place for H.B. 96 ensuring access to pharmacies across our great state.

Sincerely,

Bryan C. Thompson R.Ph.