

Submitter: Patrick Bowman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3013

January 23, 2023

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the Committee:

My name is Patrick Bowman and I'm a graduate of Oregon State University School of Pharmacy. I've been a pharmacist for 45 years. I would like to give you background on my experience with PBM's for the last 10 years.

I proudly opened Tualatin Pharmacy in 2010. After five years accelerating my business, I ran into insurmountable financial hardships that were solely caused by PBM reimbursement and PBM's post audit recruitment of funds. This progressed to the point where fully 1/3 of all the prescriptions that I dispensed at the pharmacy were being dispensed below my cost. I had no option but to close the pharmacy and sell it to my competition. The community of Tualatin now has only one pharmacy left which means no competition, no choice and no independent pharmacy. Legislative efforts at the time fell short of being able to impact my outcome. When I opened Tualatin Pharmacy we had five pharmacies as competition (Kmart/Haagen/Providence/Lake Grove/Fred Meyer). When I closed, there was only one left. I was not alone in my struggles.

Today I'm working at Bowmans Hillsdale pharmacy, a pharmacy that has been in the community for many years. Our current records show that in an average week over 20 of our dispensed drugs are below our acquisition cost which means the PBMs are reimbursing us less than it cost to purchase medications. As this number grows it becomes more difficult to serve our local community. Our independent store was part of the solution in controlling COVID the last two years by giving flu shots, COVID shots and COVID treatment. Financial viability of independent pharmacy is a direct relationship to the controlling interest of PBM's. What I see happening is a shift from local entrepreneurship and financial stability to corporate financial gain.

The PBMs are a \$300 billion a year industry, largely uncontrolled, unregulated. They are doing everything possible to keep things as they are. As intermediary they don't do anything but control data, and money flow.

PBM's are the single biggest influence on the soaring price of prescription drugs.

Patrick Bowman R.Ph.

Bowmans Hillsdale Pharmacy

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