

Submitter: Kevin White

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3013

To Whom it concerns,

I have been a licensed pharmacist for 5 years and have seen how the Pharmacy Benefit Managers have consistently been lowering reimbursements to pharmacies while at the same time pharmacies have been dealing with rising medication costs. It is squeezing pharmacies at a time when the public needs better service from their healthcare professionals. Pharmacies have been struggling to staff due to the low reimbursements and rising inflation affecting staff wages. This environment causes pharmacies to decrease staff and in turn, decrease the amount of service patients can receive. The public needs the services that are provided by our pharmacies as we have seen throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen Bi-Mart close as well as several Walgreen locations and this has caused an increase of burden on us to take care of more and more patients. I believe that most pharmacists and pharmacy staff would be willing to provide more clinical services and strive for better patient health outcomes, but the pharmacy benefit managers have been the largest road block to expanding clinical services. If we can hold pharmacy benefit managers to be more transparent and more fair in their business practices, the field of pharmacy will be able to help serve our communities by expanding clinical services to create a more positive health outcome from every patient within the community.