

March 12, 2013

Rep. Greenlink and Committee Members:

My name is Mark Murray. I have been an independent retail pharmacist for 42 years. The last 32 years as a pharmacy owner in Prairie City.

My wife and I own one of the two pharmacies in Grant County.

In my 42 years in pharmacy there has been nothing as detrimental to community pharmacies as the insidious growth of PBM's. They started as simple information switching companies between pharmacies and insurance companies. They have now ballooned their influence and power into an added layer of bureaucracy and cost to the health care industry that is unprecedented in the world.

They dictate which pharmacies can be in their systems, what drugs will be allowed, how much they will charge an insurance company for a drug, and how much they will pay a participating pharmacy for the same drug. Those two prices are rarely the same----and the PBM POCKETS THE DIFFERENCE. How much they pocket per RX filled-nobody knows. PBM's are essentially unregulated, non-transparent behemoths that are gathering more power every year.

They are restricting access into their systems to pharmacies thereby restricting service to patients, especially in rural areas.

Here is one example:

Caremark Silverscript bought out PBM CCRX. As of 1-1-13 CCRX became Caremark Silverscript. Caremark advertised that the premium and service level of silverscript would be the same as CCRX in 2012. They automatically moved patients into their Silverscript program. However patients found out their monthly premium increased \$40 + per month. They also found out that they now had a copay of \$7.00 per Rx / month where their co-pay had been \$0. The patients' only recourse was to have their Rx's filled at a PREFERRED Walmart pharmacy, even though the community pharmacy was a contracted pharmacy within their system. The closest Walmart pharmacy to Prairie City is 100+ miles in any direction. If this is not a restriction of service level to these patients, I don't know what is.

This is but one example of PBM abuse of power. There are countless others. What these examples show is a DISTURBING ATTITUDE of the PBM's. They will do ANYTHING to keep and garner more power to make more money for themselves. That is why this legislation is necessary.

PBM's are on the defensive now. More and more states are enacting regulatory legislation. Oregon needs to be one of those states.

Thank You,

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