

My name is Natalea Suchy, Pharm.D. BCACP, and I am pharmacist in Albany at Medicap. I am writing in support of House Bill 2462, which would require pharmacy benefit managers to amend contracts with community pharmacies to account for costs incurred from new taxes.

Community pharmacies have been uniquely impacted by the corporate activity tax. Unlike other businesses, the price paid by the consumer is determined by a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) or other third-party insurance payer, and not by the pharmacy itself. All PBMs and third-party payers require that a pharmacy charge the amount outlined in the contract (i.e., deductible, copayment, coinsurance), and explicitly prohibit additional amounts to be passed onto the consumer.

The financial viability for many community pharmacies is precarious and absorbing the corporate activity tax is simply not an option. Here in Albany, not only does our community pharmacy provide medications, but it is a huge part in ensuring our community's health. As an independent we do this by offering specialized services that aren't always available other places. Our bubble packing and delivery services allow us to serve vulnerable populations that may not have as easy access to the medication they need from other pharmacy stores. The corporate activity tax makes it more difficult for independent pharmacies to remain financially viable and serve out communities.

This bill provides a mechanism to maintain the Student Success Fund, while simultaneously addressing the business needs of community pharmacies. I urge you to support HB 2462.

Natalea Suchy, Pharm.D., BCACP