



May 6, 2021

The Honorable Deb Patterson, Chair  
The Honorable Tim Knopp, Vice Chair  
The Senate Committee on Health Care

**Re: H.B. 2958, relating to prescription drugs**

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA), we want to raise a concern in Section 5 of H.B. 2958 which impacts patient safety.

PCMA is the national trade association for America's Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), which administer prescription drug plans for more than 266 million Americans with health coverage through independent businesses, health insurers, labor unions, and federal and state-sponsored health programs.

Under Section 5 (1)(b) of H.B. 2958, an insurer may not restrict dispensing to in-network pharmacies. Network pharmacies, similar to medical networks, are established to ensure patient access to lower cost, high quality care. The importance of the quality of care cannot be understated. PBMs work to ensure that patients have access to safe pharmacies and are not exposed to inadequate or substandard care.

Restricting an insurer's ability to require the use of network pharmacies will put patients at risk. We, therefore, respectfully request that Section 5(1)(b) be removed. At a minimum, language should be added making clear nothing in Section 5 should be construed to require payment to a pharmacy which is excluded from federal programs by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Service or the Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. In this way, we can help ensure patients are not unintentionally put at risk.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Head", is written over a white rectangular area.

Bill Head  
Assistant Vice President