Place your Pharmacy LOGO or personal Information in a Header.

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I (own, manage, work at) the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pharmacy in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As an independent community pharmacist, I urge you to support legislation that will be brought during the 2021 session that will help independent and community pharmacists like me to survive.

I am not talking about the challenges brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic. I am talking about the unfair and often illegal practices engaged in by Pharmacy Benefits Manager organizations.

Pharmacy Benefits Managers are third party organizations that provide claims processing services or other prescription drug or device services for health benefit plans including the North Carolina State Health Plan. Current statutes have not been effective at controlling the unethical and unfair tactics PBM’s enact upon the citizens and community pharmacies of our state. PBM’s claim to save money on health care costs, but they do so on the backs of pharmacies through claw-back clauses, forcing patients to use mail order drug delivery systems, cutting independent pharmacies out of their networks and other unfair practices.

States such as West Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Ohio, North Dakota and many more have enacted legislation aimed at protecting their citizens and economy from PBM abuse. Channeling business to PBM affiliates through mail order requirements and below market price reimbursement for medications to community pharmacies has interrupted patient care and increased the burden on the patients who are struggling to manage day-to-day necessities.

Allowing the citizens of our state the right to choose their pharmacy without penalty and creating a fair and balanced reimbursement and audit criteria will help strengthen the care of our patients by keeping it in the communities where they live, work and receive treatment. This aids in improving public health in some of our most impoverished regions by ensuring local resources are available to support the many needs chronically ill patients have.

Common sense legislation that will protect the citizens of North Carolina from interruptions in patient care will be brought this session. It will ensure that PBM’s are monitored by the Department of Insurance and the State Insurance Commissioner who would have the authority to hold PBM’s accountable to the rules and regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your service to our communities that make up our wonderful state.

Sincerely