Senator XXX XXXX

North Carolina Senate

5th District

H.B 534/S.B. 632 Can Help Reduce Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) Abuse to our State and the Citizens of our State

As an independent community pharmacist, I urge you to co-sponsor H.B. 534/S.B. 632,

NC Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act. This bipartisan legislation would establish standards and criteria for the regulation and licensure of Pharmacy Benefits Managers providing claims processing services or other prescription drug or device services for health benefit plans including the North Carolina State Health Plan. Current PBM legislation has not been effective at controlling the unethical and unfair tactics PBM’s enact upon the citizens and community pharmacies of our state.

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.

H.B. 534/S.B. 632 is common sense legislation that will protect the citizens of North Carolina from interruptions in patient care (see Appendix A) and ensure that PBM’s are monitored by the Department of Insurance and 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,

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