

April 10, 2016  
Senator Cathy Giessel, Vice Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Re: SB 175

Dear Senator Giessel:

I personally want to thank you for all you and your staff have done to bring this all important bill before us. I have been a licensed Pharmacist in Alaska since 1973 and have seen this change in the history of pharmacy unfold. I was the most current owner of Hewitt's Drugs here in Anchorage and ultimately was forced to close the store and file bankruptcy due to the unregulated PBM industry.

The biggest problem was in 2006 when Medicare Part D took effect. We began honoring prescriptions for Part D in January of 2006 and did not see our first remuneration until mid May of that year. We had subsidized the PBM/Part D program for about \$365,000, before the first payments. We really never recovered from that insult. Over the next four years, payments were sporadic, reimbursements below our costs and of course the audits which were no more than witch hunts.

There are many more events that I could relate, but suffice it to say, I strongly urge support of this bill, SB 175.

Respectfully yours:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Niebert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert G. Niebert, R.Ph.  
License # 503