
From: Jane Pierson
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 5:46 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: HB 240 Letter of Support

From: Medical Center Pharmacy [<mailto:medicalcenterpharmacyone@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 2:27 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB240

Dear Representative Thompson,

4/3/18

Just a short note. I am asking again for your support and passage of HB240 through House Finance. This is a much needed bill to create stability in Alaska for the pharmacy businesses in the State of Alaska. Just within the past 2 weeks, I had an appeal for a MAC price listed price that cost me \$33.00 but was reimbursed \$9.18. The appeal was denied and there was no recourse, I lost \$23.82 on this prescription. This is very common today. Audits also are problematic. So this adds some side boards to the process. Thank you for the hearing, I hope for it's passage.

Gerald Brown (Jerry)

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February 13, 2018

Dear Representative Guttenberg,

Thank you for your time and commitment to our great state. I have been lucky enough to operate two community pharmacies in Sitka, employing over 30 people, with my pharmacist wife for over 30 years now.

We would like to stand in support of HB 240 the Pharmacy Audit and Registration of Pharmacy Benefit Managers Legislation.

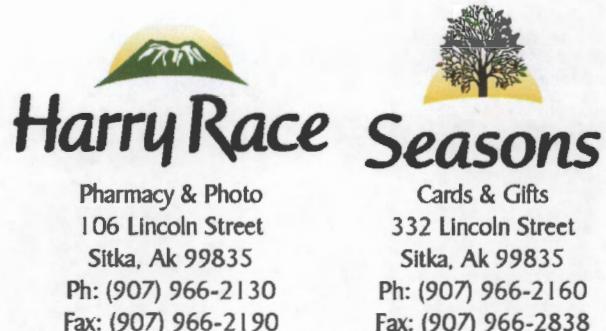
One of the arguments that has been made by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) is that if this legislation becomes the law in the state of Alaska then the cost of health care will rise. Some 42 states in the USA have passed similar legislation. Some states have had this legislation in place now for over a decade. The price of medications and healthcare in those states has not changed any more than any other state. If the price of medications and healthcare had gone up I believe that those legislatures would have addressed the issue and reversed the legislation. This has not happened, no state has rescinded any of this type of legislation.

It has now come to the attention of the Federal Government. They are now looking at these very issues and how maybe PBMs could be part of the problem of increased medication and healthcare costs and PBMs are not the saviors that have been keeping costs down as they, the PBMs, will always contend.

We need to have standards, and even playing fields to operate our business on, and an agency like the Dept. of Insurance to turn to when those standards and rules are violated.

Respectfully submitted,

Dirk White RPh



May 8, 2017

Dear Rep David Guttenberg,

Thank you for your time and commitment to our great state. I was born and raised here in Sitka and have been lucky enough to run two community pharmacies, employing over 30 people, with my pharmacist husband for over 30 years now.

We would like to stand in support of HB 240 the Pharmacy Audit Legislation.

Like all business we have seen increased costs (freight is a challenge in Sitka) but as a pharmacy we have seen the Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) muscle into every aspect of pharmacy. Everything from reduced reimbursements, forcing folks to use their mail order plan, dis-enrolling independent pharmacies for various nebulous reasons or not even letting us into the network for those same reasons, now charging us registration fees (\$200/yr.) just to be able to bill them, and of course their auditing our claims after the fact. We are at their mercy when it comes to an audit. When we get an audit we usually have a very short window to reply, so this then takes our time away from the primary care of our patients to gather all the required information sometimes from years ago. We were audited in one case where the prescription was totally legal by the State Board of Pharmacy yet because we had not filled in the date properly and the Doctor had not signed the correct form we lost over \$8,000.00 that was stolen back from our operating capital. The patient received the correct product which improved her quality of life just as the Doctor and Patient had wanted. Due to a "technical issue" according to the PBM they were justified in holding back this money from our next payment schedule and even on appeal we received no relief. It has been said that this is a business relationship that is "negotiated" between two willing entities. No lawyer I have shown one of our contracts to has said that we should sign it without modifications. When we try to modify that contract we are told that this is not negotiable take it or leave it.

We have many more examples like this if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish White RPh

The undersigned support passage of SB 38 and HB 240 Pharmacy Benefits Managers. Pass this critical legislation immediately.
PBMs must be regulated.

Signers please print legibly

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**The undersigned support passage of SB 38 and HB 240 Pharmacy
Benefits Managers. Pass this critical legislation immediately.**

PBMs must be regulated.

Signers please print *legibly*

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