



February 28, 2024

Honorable Representative Sumner, Sponsor HB226
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

In the interest of clarity, I am writing to be perfectly clear that neither the Pacific Health Coalition (PHC) nor the National CooperativeRx (NCRx) are Pharmacy Benefit Managers in the meaning of HB226.

From our web page:

“The Pacific Health Coalition provides member health plans with pharmacy benefit management (PBM) services through a large purchasing coalition, National CooperativeRx. The agreement gives member plans volume discounts and significant savings on prescription drugs from CVS/caremark, an industry PBM leader. CVS/caremark offers prescription drug services through both retail pharmacies and mail-order, giving participants easy access and an affordable option for home delivery of maintenance medicines.

National CooperativeRx provides independent program oversight including regular audits, contract negotiation, and objective clinical and pharmacy benefit expertise.

Prescription drugs usually comprise a significant portion of overall health care costs, so it pays to consider a PBM program. To learn more [download](#) our product sheet, or contact PHC at (907) 474-4226 or (888) 474-4226. You can also visit www.caremark.com.”

As I testified yesterday, NCRx is another non-profit cooperative that negotiates discounts exclusively for pharmacy benefits. PHC offers access to NCRx as one of the many opportunities to realize significant savings on health care spending on behalf of all our membership health plans. Not all member health plans use NCRx. Some contract for pharmacy benefits using other methods.

At PHC, our core values include transparency and access to information our members and prospective members need in order to serve their beneficiaries. It is important to PHC in this public policy arena that we provide accurate and truthful information with respect to these two important bills, HB 226 and SB 121, under consideration. I am happy to discuss this and other features of our Coalition at your convenience.

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