

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION SUPPORT FOR HB 1783

Dear Chair Yamane and members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness:

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association in support of HB 1783, which would help control drug costs in Hawaii, provide greater protections for patients regarding their prescription drug benefits programs, and establish greater oversight of the pharmacy benefit managers that administer those benefits. NCPA represents the interest of America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 19,400 independent community pharmacies across the United States and 42 independent community pharmacies in Hawaii.

Nationwide, state lawmakers have found that "PBMs often employ controversial utilization and management tools to generate revenue for themselves in a way that is detrimental to health plan sponsors, patients, and pharmacies."¹ HB 1783 will protect Hawaii patients by giving the insurance commissioner the necessary enforcement authority to put a stop to some of those harmful practices. Ultimately, this bill will benefit Hawaii residents by protecting the patient-pharmacist relationship and allowing community pharmacists to work with patients to make decisions that control drug costs.

To protect patient access to vital pharmacy services, I respectfully ask you to support HB 1783. If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter or wish to discuss the issue in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Matthew Magner, JD
Director, State Government Affairs

¹ New York Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations, *Final Investigative Report: Pharmacy Benefit Managers in New York*, (May 31, 2019), available at https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/article/attachment/final_investigatory_report_pharmacy_benefit_managers_in_new_york.pdf.