



March 8, 2022

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of Kentucky patients and the health care providers who serve them, we are writing to express our support for House Bill 457 and encourage you to move this important legislation forward.

House Bill 457 would put an end to the harmful practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and health insurers that are jeopardizing patient safety, access to care and local pharmacies across the Commonwealth.

PBMs [drive up](#) the cost of the medications that your constituents depend on to stay healthy. Furthermore, PBMs are forcing patients away from local pharmacies and mandating the use of their own mail order pharmacies. As Kentucky patients and pharmacies remain at risk, PBMs consistently post record profits for themselves.

The average cost of a mail order prescription has [increased](#) 164% since 2010. Moreover, pharmacies regularly hear from patients about unwanted medications that mail order pharmacies carelessly send to their homes long after the medications have been discontinued for the patient. Not only do these wasteful practices increase the total drug expenditure for employers, but they also pose a safety risk to Kentucky families with excess dangerous medications lingering in our homes. **HB 457 will reduce waste in the health care system and ensure that Kentuckians can continue accessing their preferred local pharmacies close to home.**

Additionally, for many Kentuckians, especially in more rural areas, pharmacists are the most accessible and familiar healthcare provider. The past two years have highlighted the value and importance of maintaining access to your local pharmacist. Pharmacists do more than dispense medications; they also provide trusted medication advice and clinical pharmacy-based services, while helping patients navigate the health care system. By passing HB 457, Kentucky can take much needed steps to protect local access to care, rather than allowing other actors in the health care system to undermine it.

PBMs continue to spread misinformation, stating that HB 457 will increase premiums for small businesses and employers. However, [the data says otherwise](#). States that have adopted legislation to protect patient choice and limit the abusive behaviors of PBMs have maintained premium increases less than the national average. In fact, HB 457 protects small businesses and self-insured companies by requiring PBMs to act as fiduciaries to these entities. In Georgia and West Virginia—states that have passed reforms like those included in HB 457—premiums have dropped compared to the rest of the country. **Contrary to the fears manufactured by PBMs, HB 457 will help control health care costs for employers.**

The General Assembly has taken important steps towards PBM reform in previous legislative sessions, but PBMs and insurers keep finding workarounds to profit at the expense of Kentucky patients, providers and businesses. **HB 457 will help put an end to these loopholes and ensure that our health care system is putting Kentuckians first, while helping to control health care costs for small businesses and employers.**

For these reasons, we ask that you join us in prioritizing patients over profit driven PBMs and move HB 457 forward this legislative session.

Sincerely,

American College of Rheumatology
American Pharmacists Association
American Pharmacy Services Corporation
Appalachian Regional Healthcare
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Kentucky Hospital Association
Kentucky Independent Pharmacist Alliance
Kentucky Pharmacists Association
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists
National Community Pharmacists Association
Norton Healthcare
Saint Elizabeth Healthcare
Sullivan University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
University of Louisville Healthcare
University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy