

May 31, 2022

The Honorable Bill Lee
Governor of Tennessee
State Capitol, 1st Floor
600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HB 2661/SB 2458

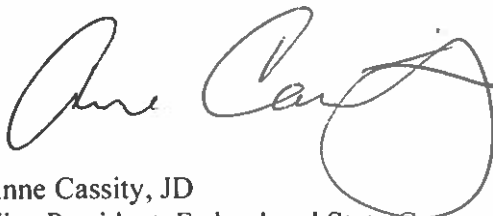
Dear Governor Lee:

On behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), I want to **thank you for signing HB 2661/SB 2458 into law**. 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 501 independent community pharmacies in Tennessee. As Governor, you have been a steadfast champion for pharmacies and their patients, always putting locally owned and operated business and patient access at the highest priority. As a result, Tennessee now has some of the most meaningful pharmacy and patient protections in the country.

HB 2661/SB 2458 will help patients retain access to their trusted pharmacy by protecting their right to choose the in-network pharmacy provider that is best for them. Too often, that choice is stripped from patients by their pharmacy benefits manager (PBM), which forces patients to use a particular pharmacy to fill their prescriptions, particularly high-cost specialty drug prescriptions.

Additionally, HB 2661/SB 2458 prohibits PBMs from reimbursing pharmacies below acquisition cost, thus eliminating a major anticompetitive practice as PBMs are often direct competitors of independent pharmacies. Further, it provides a commensurate dispensing fee and fair appeals process for a pharmacy to challenge a below cost reimbursement.

The provisions of this legislation will protect patient choice and patient access from PBM conflicts of interests by giving patients greater authority to choose which in-network pharmacy to fill their prescriptions and prohibiting anticompetitive below cost reimbursements. Thank you for your continued support for patients and small business pharmacies in Tennessee.



Anne Cassity, JD
Vice President, Federal and State Government Affairs
National Community Pharmacists Association