

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Robert Clements  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
Room 1004  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: LB 1376 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Clements and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) in support of LB 1376, legislation that appropriates needed funds at a critical juncture to independent community pharmacies.

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 approximately 140 independent community pharmacies in the State of Nebraska. There were just over 200 such pharmacies in 2019, a 30% reduction in just five years. We believe this trend reflects the myriad challenges arising from the predatory business practices of Pharmacy Benefit Management companies and inadequate reimbursement. LB 1376 recognizes the unique challenges facing independent community pharmacies and seeks to bolster their presence in communities across the state with adequate reimbursement based on data from cost of dispensing surveys.

Over 90% of Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy,<sup>1</sup> and more than any other segment of the pharmacy industry, independent community pharmacies are often located in underserved rural and urban areas. These pharmacies are frequently the most accessible healthcare providers in many Nebraska communities and are vital in the provision of immunizations, testing, and other services. LB 1376 will help stabilize patient access to pharmacy services in these communities.

We thank Senator Riepe for his introduction of the bill. We urge you to advance this critical legislation. If you have any questions, please contact me at (703) 600-1186 or [joel.kurzman@ncpa.org](mailto:joel.kurzman@ncpa.org).

Sincerely,



Joel Kurzman  
Director, State Government Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> NCPDP Pharmacy File, ArcGIS Census Tract File, NACDS Economics Department.