



A Network Of
Independently Owned
Pharmacies

Testimony
offered on
behalf of:

EPIC PHARMACIES,
INC.

IN SUPPORT OF:

SB0689 - Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Prohibited Actions

**Senate Finance Committee
Hearing 3/16/22 at 1:00 p.m.**

EPIC Pharmacies, Inc., a Pharmacy Services Administrative Organization (PSAO) that has served Maryland independent pharmacies for 30 years, would like to express its **support for SB0689 – Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Prohibited Actions.**

EPIC has said for years there needs to be transparency and regulation in the prescription marketplace because of the games that are played with the payment of pharmacy claims. This bill regulates many of the issues that have plagued independent pharmacies and given control of the market to a few large PBMs. Restrictive networks, mandatory mail order, spread pricing, differential copays, slow credentialing, and retroactive fees have made it nearly impossible for pharmacies to survive in the current marketplace.

By supporting this bill and its requirements for PBMs, the legislature will help to level the playing field and give consumers the power to choose the pharmacy that best fits their needs. This bill helps patients by allowing their chosen pharmacy to participate in all networks and provide equivalent copays. EPIC has said on many occasions that allowing more pharmacies to provide services to patients doesn't increase costs but does increase access for the consumer.

EPIC requests the Committee's **favorable report on SB0689** to protect patient choice and to enable EPIC to continue providing essential support to independent pharmacies and pharmacies to fulfill their primary function: helping keep Maryland communities healthy.

3/16/2022

SB0689

Respectfully submitted,

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