



Testimony offered on behalf of:
EPIC PHARMACIES, INC.

IN SUPPORT OF:
HB 539 – Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Prohibited Actions
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Hearing 3/2 at 1:00 PM

EPIC Pharmacies, Inc. **SUPPORTS HB 539** – Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Prohibited Actions.

We have said for years that 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, you 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. We have said many times that allowing more pharmacies to provide services to patients doesn't increase costs but does increase access for the consumer.

We respectfully ask the committee to support HB 539 so that we can protect patient choice and continue to serve our Maryland communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian M. Hose".

Brian M. Hose, PharmD
EPIC PharmPAC Chairman
brian.hose@gmail.com