



PHARMACISTS UNITED FOR TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY

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PHARMACISTS UNITED FOR TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY ENDORSES GEORGIA PHARMACY PATIENT FAIR PRACTICES ACT, APPLAUDS STATE LEGISLATURE

New Bill Would Ensure Copays are not Higher than Drug Costs, Prohibit Interfering with Pharmacist's Right to Inform Patients About Cheaper Alternatives

Phoenix, AZ (March 21, 2017) – Pharmacists United for Truth and Transparency (PUTT) today announced its endorsement of Georgia Senate Bill 103, The Pharmacy Patient Fair Practices Act, and acknowledged the state legislature for its decision to put the needs and rights of the patient first. SB103 passed through both houses of the Georgia legislature and is on its way to Governor Nathan Deal for signature.

“For too long the PBM ‘middlemen’ have inserted themselves between the patient and the pharmacist, making decisions based on profits instead of what’s in the best interest of the person whose health and wellness is on the line,” said Teresa Stickler, Pharm D. and President of PUTT. “We applaud the Georgia legislature for taking this important step to protect the rights and relationship between patients and pharmacists and appeal for other states to enact similar legislation for the health and well-being of their citizens and communities.”

If signed, the Pharmacy Patient Fair Practices Act would become one of the strongest pharmacy-patient protection laws in the country. The Act would give the Commissioner of Insurance - the Georgia’s licensing authority for Pharmacy Benefits Management companies (PBMs) - authority to enforce specific provisions of the PMB chapter of the law. It also specifically prohibits several practices that have adversely impacted patients and pharmacies, including:

- restricting pharmacies from providing patients with information about, and selling them, less costly prescription drugs

- restricting pharmacies from offering direct-delivery services to their patients as an ancillary service
- charging patients copays that are higher than what the pharmacy is paid (called “copay clawbacks”)
- charging pharmacies transaction fees related to the adjudication of a claim
- recouping money from a pharmacy outside of the audit process, unless otherwise authorized or required by law
- penalizing or retaliating against a pharmacy for seeking to enforce their rights under the law.
- requiring mail order under group, blanket, and individual accident and sickness policies.

PBMs act as middle men in the pharmacy industry. Originally intended to process prescription claims, and currently portraying to help reduce costs by verifying claims and providing authorizations, increasingly the largest PBMs have been called out on questionable pricing, unfair practices and passing on costs that make it difficult for all, including the largest pharmacy chains, to do business.

Pharmacists United for Truth and Transparency (PUTT) exists to unify, promote and preserve independent pharmacies through education and access; to monitor PBM and other industry practices which, when identified as abusive, are exposed in various manners in the interest of improving the quality, safety and cost of patient care. For more information about the negative impact of Pharmacy Benefits Management company practices on the cost and accessibility of medications, or to learn more about PUTT, visit TruthRx.org or contact Monique Whitney, (505) 480-4150.

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