

## GREGWIRE DRUG STORE

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Chairman Vickery and Committee Members,

Please accept my testimony regarding House Bill 2598.

This bill should be enacted for the protection of Kansas senior citizens, Kansas businesses, and importantly for all Kansas's who hold prescription insurance coverage. For far too long the PBM industry has been increasing the cost of prescription drugs for all Kansas citizens.

In my practice in Russell Kansas over the last 28 years, I have witnessed patients my patients being abused by the PBM industry because they are not regulated. The results of this are devastating to patients and employers/governments/insurers alike. Common practices employed by PBM's include but are not limited to: spread billing (billing an employer more for a given prescription that was paid to the retail pharmacy), collection of rebates that are not passed on to the patient or employer, making patients use Brand name drugs when other cheaper generics are available, manipulation of MAC pricing of pharmaceuticals, and many other hidden and manipulative problems and forcing patients to use mail order companies that are owned by the PBM. (allowing more manipulation) PBM's use practices of setting formularies and choosing pharmaceuticals based on which company will give them the largest kickback per prescription causing patient confusion and dosing problems. In addition to the above, they are manipulating the 340B drug programmed designed to help small rural hospitals and patients.

All of these items push senior citizens into the donut hole early and increase the overall cost of pharmaceutical health care. Until now these manipulative practices have been occurring because there is no transparency in this industry.

Please pass and enforce this critical piece of legislation for the protection of millions of Kansans, patients, businesses and government entities.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hilger

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Patrick R. Hilger, Pharmacist Gregwire Drug  
Store