



February 19, 2025

The Honorable Jillian Gilchrest  
Co-Chair, Human Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2000  
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Matthew L. Lesser  
Co-Chair, Human Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2000  
Hartford, CT 06106

**HB 6091 An Act Concerning an Equitable Medicaid Audit, Billing and Reimbursement Policy for Pharmacies – SUPPORT**

Dear Co-Chairs Gilchrest and Lesser, Ranking Members Case and Harding, Vice Chairs Comey and Maher, and members of the Human Services Committee:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) supports [House Bill \(HB\) 6091](#) (Rep. Marra), which will protect Connecticut patients' access to their medications and their trusted health care professional, the pharmacist. By preserving pharmacists' crucial role in ensuring patients' access to their medications, Connecticut can ensure that its communities receive the best possible health care.

As a result of the predatory practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), patients' access to medications from their local pharmacist across the country has declined<sup>1</sup>, taxpayer dollars have been funneled into corporate profits<sup>2</sup>, and generationally owned community pharmacies have been driven out of business.<sup>3</sup> A study found that PBM tactics forced Oregon Medicaid to overpay \$1.9M on a single drug, where PBMs marked up the drug by 800 percent.<sup>4</sup> Appropriate government oversight is necessary to address the misaligned incentives in the PBM industry, which prioritizes profits over patients. HB 6091 would address many of the underlying issues that harm patients, Connecticut taxpayers, and pharmacists by prohibiting Medicaid from denying reimbursements to pharmacies and establishing a fair appeals process when reimbursements do not cover pharmacies' costs.

Another critical focus of HB 6091 is maintaining patient access to their lifesaving medications and preserving the pharmacist-patient relationship. Increasing transparency and ensuring sustainable reimbursement to pharmacies will help keep local community pharmacy doors open and protect access to care, particularly for populations in rural and underserved Connecticut communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Rose J, Krishnamoorth R. Why your neighborhood community pharmacy may close. *The Hill*. Available at <https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/530477-why-your-neighborhood-community-pharmacy-may-close>

<sup>2</sup> 3 Axis Advisors. Analysis of PBM Spread Pricing in New York Medicaid Managed Care. Available at <http://www.ncpa.co/pdf/state-advoc/new-york-report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Callahan C. Mom-and-pop pharmacies struggle to hang on. *Times Union*. Available at <https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/news/article/Mom-and-pop-pharmacies-struggle-to-hang-on-16187714.php>

<sup>4</sup> <https://oregonpharmacy.org/2022/10/27/oregon-report/>

For these reasons, APhA strongly supports HB 6091 and respectfully requests your “AYE” vote. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Senior Advisor for State Government Affairs, by email at [mmurphy@aphanet.org](mailto:mmurphy@aphanet.org).

Sincerely,



Michael Baxter  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
American Pharmacists Association

cc: Representative Jay M. Case, Ranking Member  
Senator Stephen G. Harding, Ranking Member  
Representative Robin E. Comey, Vice Chair  
Senator Ceci Maher, Vice Chair  
Senator Saud Anwar  
Representative Larry B. Butler  
Representative Lucy Dathan  
Representative Mike Demicco  
Representative Mary Fortier  
Senator Herron Gaston  
Representative Anne M. Hughes  
Representative Susan M. Johnson  
Representative Sarah Keitt  
Representative Gale L. Mastrofrancesco  
Representative Stephen R. Meskers  
Representative William Pizzuto  
Representative Hilda E. Santiago  
Representative Tony J. Scott  
Representative Kaitlyn Shake  
Representative Chris Stewart  
Representative Kurt Vail  
Representative Tracy Marra  
Nathan Tinker, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Pharmacists Association

**About APhA:** APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care and enhance public health. **In Connecticut, with 3,100 licensed pharmacists and 4,930 pharmacy technicians, APhA represents the pharmacists and student pharmacists that practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents.** As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.