

**ROGER DE ZINNO
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Re: HB 6846:

Dear

I am the owner of Graeber's Pharmacy a 150 year old pharmacy located in Meriden. I am before you today to oppose the decrease in the Medicaid reimbursement for prescription drugs.

For the past couple of years we have been operating on a shoe string trying to stay alive and provide service to our community. We were hoping that we would see some light at the end of the tunnel when the legislatures passed a bill giving the independent pharmacies a filling fee raise to \$2.00. That never materialized and our hopes diminished.

There are some providers who require less education and no credentialing than a pharmacist yet make a better profit through the Medicaid program than a Pharmacy's pharmacist who has 6 years of college and one year internship.

Pharmacist just doesn't take a bottle of pills and transfer it to another bottle:

- 1) Pharmacist must put a label on it
- 2) Must supply a bottle
- 3) Must submit it for payment sometimes 2 or three times each submittal cost the store owner a fee
- 4) Most independents deliver
- 5) Most independents do blister packs
- 6) All Pharmacist must offer concealing on the RX's being dispensed
 - a) When audited if this is not done it is extrapolated
 - 7) All Pharmacists must do CE educations every two years
 - 8) All Pharmacies must file a weekly report to the state on all control drugs Dispensed to patients.
- 9) Daily and weekly logs must be kept on all medications dispense
- 10) Pharmacies must pay for all E-Script's coming as well as all request for E-Script's at a rate of 25 cents each
- 11) All Pharmacist must carry extremely high malpractice insurances.
- 12) On some RX go through the prior authorization process

These are just some of the items needed just to fill one RX. Plus we are constantly getting new regulations to uphold example (HB6856 act concerning opioid overdose) but yet still get our reimbursement cut when extra laws are added to our plate to perform.

As you can see all these regulations and services cost the Pharmacy money on each and every prescriptions dispense.

I know when you look at the total amount of money spent on prescription drugs it is overwhelming, but please take into account that the federal government and the manufactures contribute 75% (50% feds 25 % manufactures)reimbursement to the state on every RX dispensed. This leaves the state a small amount to shell out for the betterment and well-being of its needy citizens.

If this reimbursement of awp-18% and \$1.40 filling fee is passed many of the needy services provided will have to be eliminated, which will decrease access throughout the state.

Please also take into account that independent pharmacies provide services to the most complex cases and are a valuable resource within the community. Ask yourself who will meet these patients' needs if we do not.

Also please take into account we are loosing money on a lot of Federal Mac reimbursement as well as extremely low reimbursements on the state Mac pricing. To offset these low or below cost reimbursement we need a fair reimbursement on the drugs that wash out those losses.

In closing just a food for thought...why not up the rebate to manufactures from 25% to a 27% fee for participating in the state Medicaid program and consider us for a raise, after all they are the one's making all the money not us.

**Thank you,
Roger DeZinno
Graeber's Pharmacy
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