



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

April 26, 2018

The Honorable Joann Ginal
& Members of the House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee
Colorado General Assembly
State Capitol - 200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: OPPOSE H.B. 18-1358 – (Foote, Beckman)
Legislation Requiring Disclosures Pertaining to Charges for Health Care**

Dear Chair Ginal and Members of the House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee:

On behalf of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) 12 chain pharmacy members operating more than 750 community retail pharmacies that provide quality, convenient health care services and medications across the state, we urge you to vote NO on HB18-1358.

As currently drafted, HB18-1358 would require pricing transparency as if the pharmacy were selling the drug for cash to the consumer. However, the overwhelming majority of consumers have insurance, so the cash price is not relevant to the consumer.

There are a multitude of drugs. Publishing the pricing of every drug to the public would overwhelm the public and be confusing. There is no way the public can make sense of it. There are multiple strengths, dosages, and forms for a single drug. The public will never be able to figure which drug is the one they are getting or how to run any sort of meaningful comparison.

If the goal of the bill is to promote lower drug costs for consumers, pharmacies can and do help patients reduce drug prices through senior citizen discounts, health insurance co-payments, or prescription drug savings cards offered by manufacturers.

Publishing the prices is going to have little effect on the prices given that retail pharmacies cannot control the purchase price of their product and have little to no control over the price at which prescriptions are sold. Manufacturers determine the product cost, and third-party payers (Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, etc.) or pharmacy benefit management companies (PBMs) set the reimbursement to the pharmacy and the price to the patient.

In conclusion, requiring pharmacies to publish their process will negatively impact patient access. Pharmacies have little control over drug prices. For all of the reasons stated above, we urge you to oppose HB18-1358.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Staples". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Staples
Director, State Government Affairs
National Association of Chain Drug Stores

cc: Angie Baker, Colorado Retail Council

NACDS Regional Office

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