

May 28, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

Re: Support for H.B. 1919 – “Relating to Prohibited Practices for Certain Health Benefit Plan Issuers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers”

The National Association of Chain Drug Store (NACDS) is writing to urge you to sign into law H.B. 1919, important legislation that will help protect Texans’ ability to receive pharmacy services from their chosen pharmacy provider, including their local retail community pharmacies.

Importantly, H.B. 1919 would help maintain patients’ right to choose a pharmacy provider by prohibiting health benefit plans and pharmacy benefit managers from “steering” or otherwise directing patients to use any particular in-network pharmacy provider over another. Notably, some third-party payors use financial incentives and differential copays to push patients to use mail-order pharmacies over neighborhood pharmacies. For patients who are sicker and require more prescription drugs, these individuals greatly benefit from coordinated prescription management by their trusted, local pharmacist. This bill helps facilitate and maintain access to this type of care from neighborhood pharmacies for patients such as this. By preventing plans for setting higher copays and reduced health coverage regardless for certain in-network providers and not others, and prohibiting certain communications encouraging the use of any particular pharmacy, this bill will help ensure that patients are not penalized for choosing the pharmacy provider that best suits their individual needs.

For these reasons, NACDS is pleased to offer our strong support for H.B. 1919. We again, urge you to sign this bill for the benefit of patients throughout Texas. Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspectives on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Anderson, FASAE, IOM, CAE
President and Chief Executive Officer