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Thank you, Chair Solomon and members of the House Corporations Committee.

My name is Ron Lanton, and I represent the Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation (NPSC).

On behalf of NPSC, we stand united in support of our participating pharmacies behind HB 5248 titled AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES.

I help pharmacies in several states fight unfair PBM audits. Before Rhode Island's current law that we drafted, PBMs would claim fraud, take a pharmacy's money for a few months then give it back to them when it was proven there was no fraud. Additionally, PBMs use time consuming audits as unfair fishing expeditions.

This abuse led to pharmacies having to bear significant strains on resources to reply to burdensome audits that were not the result of fraud, while PBMs remain unchecked to do similar practices several times a year to pharmacies in the state.

This bill simply strengthens existing Rhode Island law, which seeks to limit the new abuses that PBMs are subjecting the remaining independent pharmacies in Rhode Island to.

I am available for questions and if the Committee feels as though it can help us facilitate a meeting with the PBMs to come to an amicable resolution on either of these matters, we are open to it.

Best regards,  
Ron Lanton III, Esq.  
Government Affairs Director  
NPSC