

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1505

JUDICIARY

AGRICULTURE

SMALL BUSINESS

September 25, 2006

Mr. Joseph D Beraldi
601 Forest Dr
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

Dear Mr. Beraldi,

Thank you for contacting me regarding H.R. 1671, the Community Pharmacy Fairness Act. I am always interested in hearing your views on issues such as this.

As you may know, some are concerned that while community pharmacies provide better service than chain pharmacies many community pharmacies have been squeezed out of the market by their more powerful competitors. Additionally, those concerned argue that Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) hurt both patients and community pharmacies by requiring subscribers to an employer health plan to access their drugs only through mail-order thereby leaving customers without the advice of their local pharmacist.

H.R. 1671 would allow community pharmacies to negotiate collectively for drug reimbursements. It is hoped that this, would allow independent pharmacists (defined as pharmacies not owned by publicly traded companies) to negotiate terms and conditions of reimbursement contracts with insurance companies and PBMs collectively.

This bill has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary where it awaits further action. As a Judiciary Committee member, you can rest assured that I will keep your thoughts in mind should this bill come for a vote before the Committee and full House.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding this issue. If you should have any future questions or federal concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Steve King
Member of Congress

SK\nt2