

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

JUDICIARY

AGRICULTURE

SMALL BUSINESS

April 12, 2007

Mr. Anthony Beraldi
701 16th Ave
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Dear Mr. Beraldi,

Thank you for contacting me with your support of H.R. 971, the Community Pharmacy Fairness Act of 2007. I am always interested in hearing your views on issues such as this.

As you may know, H.R. 971 would change antitrust law to give independent pharmacies the right to negotiate as a group regarding the reimbursement rates they receive from health plans and health insurance issuers, including health plans under parts C and D of the Medicare Program. H.R. 971 is currently being considered by the Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member.

In recent years, a number of small, independent pharmacies have begun to worry about their continued existence because of what they see as unfair advantages given to their larger competitors. Because of the significant buying power that many of the independent pharmacies' large competitors have, they are often able to secure much higher rates of reimbursement for the prescriptions that they dispense. In addition, many independent pharmacies worry about Pharmacy Benefit Managers increasingly requiring subscribers to an employee health to access their drugs only through mail-order—a practice which cuts the care, concern, and expertise of a local pharmacist out of the prescribing process. Supporters of H.R. 971 argue that the protections offered by this bill would do much to remedy these problems. As H.R. 971 continues to make its way through the Judiciary Committee, I will be monitoring its progress and will keep your thoughts in mind if it is brought before the whole committee for a vote.

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

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