



July 20, 2020

Governor, State of Georgia
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Kemp,

On behalf of 40 Georgia patient and provider groups led by the Rx in Reach GA Coalition, we urge you to sign into law Senate Bill 313 and House Bills 946, 918, and 991, which work together to tighten regulations of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and increase patient access to medications. PBMs are little-known middlemen who profit in the health care system by negotiating between health insurers, drug manufacturers and pharmacies – often resulting in confusing pharmaceutical policies and higher pharmaceutical prices for patients.

Due to the efforts of Sen. Dean Burke, and Reps. David Knight, Sharon Cooper and Matt Hatchett, these bills passed the Georgia General Assembly with strong bipartisan and bicameral support. The bills will lead to improved patient access to prescription medications and financial relief for patients. The legislation requires that PBMs pass on savings from their negotiations to health care plans, and also requires that any copay assistance that patients receive for generic medications is applied towards the patient's cost-sharing or copay responsibilities.

Importantly, the bills also increase patient protections by prohibiting harmful steering barriers that force patients to use out-of-state mail order pharmacies owned by affiliated companies in order to receive their vital medications. This practice has limited patient choice and resulted in harmful delays in patients' receiving the medicine they need.

SB 313 and HB 946, 918, and 991 will give Georgia patients more choice in where to get their prescriptions and at a lower cost. PBMs have complicated the prescription drug market for too long, and this legislation is an important step towards helping patients access the prescription drugs and treatments they need.

The Rx in Reach GA Coalition urges you to sign these bills into law.

Sincerely,

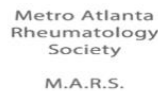
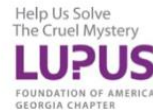
Dorothy Leone-Glasser, RN, HHC,
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The Rx in Reach GA Coalition consists of members from 40 health-centered physician, nurses and patient organizations advocating for legislation that ends the financial and discriminatory barriers to securing vital medical care and medication for patients.



Infectious Disease Society GA



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