



MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

# OUTSOURCING PRESCRIPTIONS

*Advocating on behalf of Michigan's pharmacy professionals for quality patient care*

## KEY STATEMENT

**Outsourcing prescriptions is bad business for Michigan.**

## BACKGROUND

Though the state of Michigan had made many strides to reverse mandatory mail order in last year's RFP for new pharmacy benefits managers for the state's workers, retirees and educators, patients are still being economically coerced into outsourcing their prescriptions.

## WHY IS OUTSOURCING PRESCRIPTIONS DAMAGING TO MICHIGAN?

- **Outsourcing prescriptions is driving Michigan businesses to close and hurting families.**
  - Hundreds of pharmacies across the state have closed in the last several years, in part due to patients they had provided care being forced to ship their prescriptions out of state.
  - **More than 3,000 pharmacy jobs have been lost as a result**, putting those employees in a lurch to provide for their families. Many pharmacists graduating from Michigan's three colleges of pharmacy are forced to move to other states to find work.
  - The combined **dollars lost** because of tax revenue that is sent to out-of-state mail order facilities totals in the **hundreds of millions**, which could have been used to grow Michigan's economy.
- **Outsourcing prescriptions decreases patients' access to care and puts their health in danger.**
  - Mail order eliminates a patient's opportunity to have face time with a pharmacist, who is required by law to be available and help patients understand how to use their medications.
  - Mail order often results in patient's receiving medications from multiple different sources, without a central coordination of care by a pharmacist, who can make sure that all of the medications work safely together.
  - **Outsourcing prescriptions puts a patient in greater peril for potential drug interactions or not taking their medicine safely**, which causes health care costs to skyrocket when patients end up in the emergency room because of medication errors, adverse events or lost prescriptions.
- **Outsourced prescriptions are piling up in landfills and being found in Michigan's waterways.**
  - Many times, mail order prescriptions deliver a larger quantity during a given period than necessary and are refilled automatically regardless of need. Because patients have no opportunity for face-to-face interactions with their pharmacist or personal follow-up to make sure they are continuing to properly take their medications, or the physician changes the medication, **mail order prescriptions produce a volume of costly, unused medication waste.**
  - Medication disposal events around the state of Michigan continue yield a disproportionately high return of outsourced prescriptions. This waste drives up the base prescription costs by requiring patients to purchase more than they need and then throw away the rest.
  - With the growing number of studies showing **traces of medications in the water supply and ground soil**, mail order waste helps propel this growing issue of concern.



## BOTTOM LINE

Outsourcing prescriptions has shipped hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs out of the state, has put patient health in jeopardy and has negatively impacted the environment. **Mandating this potentially dangerous practice can no longer be tolerated by state government.**



## Additional Information

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