

Testimony in favor of SB2402, Joint Policy Committee 1/21/2026 by Marvin Nelson

I am in favor of this bill. It seems to me we do a lot to have pharmacists be the experts in many aspects of medications, but then we often turn to other sources to make the decisions.

With many and by retirement age most people on many prescriptions, drug interactions are almost a certainty. Having meds reviewed is a good thing even though interactions can't always be avoided or might even be desired but hopefully we can have fewer meds treating symptoms of other meds.

And it seems today that much of people's knowledge on drugs comes from commercials, certainly not an unbiased source.

A personal example. I was on a steroid inhaler for my reactive lungs. Went in for a refill, the pharmacy benefit manager didn't like early fills, and the pharmacist says, they won't cover it. The PBM had changed their formulary which meant I needed to contact my internist for a new prescription on a Friday Afternoon. Which was the new inhaler, why the one on the formulary. It never worked as well for me, but in any case could just have well been the pharmacist instead of bothering the doctor. The prescribing decisions are actually being made by the PBMs, especially on expensive drugs.

One more example of PBMs with the diabetes class of drugss called SGLT2, there are three name brand ones available. Two cost about \$500 a month, one costs about \$50, the PBMs have only the expensive ones on their formulary so they can get massive kickbacks from the drug companies and make more money. The reasonably priced effective drug is never on a formulary at least by the major PBMs.

I don't think this bill actually goes far enough, I believe insulins should all be available over the counter like in Canada.

As things currently sit, we put companies with the goal of maximizing profits basically in control of what is prescribed. This control gives them great power which they use to extract even more. I am in favor of almost anything that reduces their control. Our local professionals are a much better choice.

