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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Association of Community Pharmacies Calls on State Senate to Pass Legislation Aimed at Stopping Deceptive Practices by PBMs

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (May 5, 2020) – Mel Brodsky, executive director of PARD, an Association of Community Pharmacies, today urged the Pennsylvania Senate to pass **House Bill 941**, aimed at stopping the deceptive practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs).

“PBMs were started in the early 1970s as administrators of pharmacy benefit programs for insurance companies and were named third-party administrators (TPAs),” Brodsky said. “Through the years they have grown to become PBMs where they mandate almost every aspect of the pharmacy profession. PBMs decide what drugs may be dispensed and how much they will pay for a drug, to the detriment of independent pharmacies, while often paying their retail chain partners much better prices. All this in an effort to close independent pharmacies so they can mandate even higher pricing to their clients. Independent pharmacies are closing, not because they cannot compete, but rather because the insurance companies or PBMs are mandating their members not to use independent pharmacies.

“Independent pharmacies have proven in the past that they could compete, which is why PBMs use deceptive practices like spread pricing, mail order and specialty pharmacies to close the independent stores. In these times of COVID-19, independent pharmacies are on the front lines serving their patients like they have for over 100 years.”

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About PARD

Founded in 1898 as the Philadelphia Association of Retail Druggists, PARD continues to serve its patients and remains an important part of the communities it serves. The organization is

committed to protecting the business and professional interests of the independent pharmacist, as it has done for over a century.

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