

STATEMENT FROM NCODA Legislative & Policy Advisory Committee

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GOV. ABBOTT (TX) SIGNS PBM LEGISLATION - A VICTORY FOR ONCOLOGY PATIENTS

The world of oncology has numerous advocates for patients and their well-being, NCODA is proud to shine the light on the work of Texas Oncology for their work in taking a stand for Texans who are battling cancer. NCODA President Jim Schwartz, RPh, who also serves as the Executive Director of Pharmacy Operations at Texas Oncology, was part of a distinguished group that included NCODA members Debra Patt, MD and Steven R. Paulson, MD in testifying before the Texas Legislature on behalf of patients.

These NCODA members testified on regulating Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) along with a variety of other issues that are focal points for oncology providers and their patients. This type of commitment and dedication has helped lead to the passing of legislation in the Texas legislature that will improve quality of care and increase treatment options for cancer patients throughout the state of Texas. The Texas Senate unanimously passed HB 1763 that puts restraints on Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM). Following the unanimous decision by the Texas legislature, the bill was sent to Governor Abbott in hopes it would be signed into law.

Yesterday evening, the bill was signed into law by Governor Abbott, marking a tremendous victory for Texans battling cancer. This law will ensure patients have the choice when dealing with their oncology medication and would prohibit self-dealing by the PBM. The regulations being put on self-dealing would prohibit PBMs from acting in their own financial best interest instead of the patient's best interest, a major victory for all oncology patients.

NCODA is proud of the work being done in Texas, led by the aforementioned NCODA members and hopes that this will translate to more positive reform for cancer patients throughout the country, allowing more access to quality care and better patient outcomes for those who are battling cancer. Governor Abbott and the Texas legislature have made a tremendous impact for the world of oncology, NCODA is hopeful that the rest of the country will take notice and follow the example set forth by Texas. This new law will make a positive impact for patients and their families for years to come.



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