Ohio Association of Community Health Centers Stand in Support of 340B Protections

Ohio Community Health Centers support legislation protecting underserved from PBM greed

(COLUMBUS) – The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers applauds Senator Hackett for introducing Senate Bill 263 and Representatives Manchester and Clites for introducing House Bill 482, protecting the intent of the 340B Drug Pricing Program by ensuring savings intended to remove barriers and increase access to care are directed to the most vulnerable Ohioans and not padding the Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) profits.

Established in 1992, the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program provides certain safety net providers, referred to as covered entities, access to prescription drugs at reduced prices. By purchasing medications at a lower cost, covered entities like Community Health Centers are required to pass the savings along to their patients and communities.

“As a pharmacist I see firsthand the impact of the 340B program,” said Logan Yoho, Pharmacy Director at Hopewell Health Centers, “After helping our patients afford their medications, we use the remaining 340B savings to expand services.”

“We have a robust Chronic Care Management program that assists patients in managing chronic disease states such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and asthma. 340B savings also help to augment other grant funding in the treatment of patients affected by the Opioid Epidemic.”

In Ohio and across the country, 340B providers, such as Community Health Centers, are being targeted with discriminatory contracts: contracts that absorb all or part of the 340B pharmacy savings, generally by reducing reimbursements and/or adding fees not applicable to non-340B providers. Unfortunately, due to a lack of options, health centers are then left in “take-it-or-leave-it” contract scenarios. The new legislation in the House and Senate will prohibit imposing fees or reducing reimbursement to Ohio 340B providers - simply because they are a 340B provider.

“Health centers are leaders in providing comprehensive, quality care, and meeting the needs of our communities,” said Julie DiRossi-King, Chief Operating Officer of OACHC. “A key piece of providing this care is the 340B Drug Pricing Program. The ability to reinvest savings to support or expand primary care services ultimately increases patients’ access to the care they need --
when they need it, and in the appropriate, most cost-effective setting -- thus reducing costs elsewhere in the healthcare system.”

**About Ohio’s Community Health Centers**
Federally Qualified Health Centers and FQHC Look-Alikes, more commonly referred to as Community Health Centers (CHCs), are non-profit health care providers that deliver affordable, high-quality and comprehensive primary care to medically underserved populations, regardless of insurance status. CHCs provide integrated whole person care, oftentimes providing onsite dental, behavioral, pharmacy, vision and other needed supplemental services under one roof. While each is distinct, they share one common purpose: to provide primary health care services that are coordinated, culturally and linguistically competent and community directed.

**About OACHC | www.ohiochc.org**
OACHC is a not-for-profit professional association representing Ohio’s Federally Qualified Health Centers. OACHC’s Mission is to ensure access to high-quality affordable health care for all Ohioans through the growth and development of Ohio’s Community Health Centers. OACHC represents Ohio’s 55 Community Health Centers at 380+ locations, including multiple mobile units, in 70 of Ohio’s 88 counties.

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