

2 March 2026

To the Honorable Representatives of Vermont,

My name is Johnny Alexander, Doctor of Pharmacy, and I am writing this letter in support of legislation providing for a state-wide, publicly administered cash discount program for prescription drugs known as ArrayRx.

I have had the honor of serving communities in the pharmacy setting for the last 15 years. This time has given me a broad perspective regarding the challenges my patients experience, including being able to afford their essential medications. Additionally, much of my experience in patient care has been in independent pharmacy, so I am also familiar with the struggles of running a small business in the ever-evolving healthcare landscape.

As you all must be aware, healthcare costs have steadily risen for your constituents due to several factors, including changes to the Affordable Care Act. Beyond the overall cost of health insurance, patients are often denied coverage to medications or are forced to wait for lengthy approval processes for their already expensive insurance to pay for a similarly expensive medication. State and Federally provided programs, such as Medicaid, can be helpful for many, however, there is a gap that may yet widen representing patients who do not qualify for these programs, yet who also cannot afford expensive commercial insurance plans or the medications they refuse to cover.

A publicly administered cash discount program, such as ArrayRx, represents a solution to these issues, offering affordable medications processed through a responsible state partner. While discount programs, such as GoodRx, exist in the market, these programs are processed through the same Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) that are driving up prices, hurting both pharmacies and patients. Further, GoodRx levies draconian fees to pharmacies processing their claims and has a history of sharing patient data, as evidenced by FTC action in 2023.

ArrayRx has provided prescription drug programs to multiple states, including Washington, Oregon, and most recently Connecticut. This program would work directly with the State of Vermont's Treasurer's Office as a member of the Steering Committee governing body. This is a key benefit which would allow for Vermont pharmacies to appeal remittances that do not reimburse sufficiently to cover the cost of drugs and the overhead to dispense them. This is unique among prescription drug programs, where similar appeals processes are a rubber-stamped "NO" to the pharmacy.

In a time where Vermonters are facing increasing costs, decreasing stability, and uncertainty in so many areas of their lives, I think it is of the utmost importance that our legislators consider programs like this that will provide security, health, and affordability for our most vulnerable populations. The Oath of a Pharmacist states that we will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering as our primary concerns. It is with this aim in mind that I support this legislation, and that I invite you all to do the same, joining me in the commitment to care for the people of our brave little state.

Respectfully,



Johnny Alexander, PharmD