



June 5th, 2024

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 5350

Chair Carter and Members of the House Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 5350. My name is Anna Rumbles, and I represent Upper Great Lakes Family Health Center. On an annual basis, Upper Great Lakes provides approximately 25,000 unique patients in the Upper Peninsula with 80,000 clinical visits for comprehensive primary care, obstetrics & gynecology services, behavioral health care including Medication Assisted Treatment for opioid use disorder, and preventative and restorative dental services. As a rural community, Upper Great Lakes' population is significantly underserved, aging, and impoverished. Sixty percent of Upper Great Lakes patients are either on Michigan Medicaid or on Medicare. Seventy percent of our patients are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, and 25% are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.

Many of the services provided by Upper Great Lakes, and many of the underserved locations we have made our services available in, would not be sustainable without the savings generated by the 340B Program. As you are aware, the intent of the 340B Program is to enable covered entities like us to stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services. The actions taken by pharmaceutical manufacturers over the last few years have not only financially strained countless covered entities across the country, but also the patients that we care for. Upper Great Lakes has not had the opportunity to provide our own pharmacy for our patients, so we rely on contract pharmacies across our service area to provide sliding fee prescriptions to our patients below the federal poverty level. Without access to 340B pricing at contract pharmacies, this has become difficult and sometimes impossible for patients to afford the medications they need to remain healthy and out of the hospital.

I write this letter to express my support for this bill. This bill would provide access to the savings that were intended for covered entities and allow us to continue to provide care for the patients who would otherwise likely be left without care. Upper Great Lakes Family Health urges you to support this Bill to support the patients who rely on us to stay healthy and connected to services and resources in the community, regardless of their ability to pay.

Sincerely,

Anna Rumbles, PharmD
Director of Pharmacy
Upper Great Lakes Family Health Center

Providing exceptional health care services for all people in the Upper Great Lakes region regardless of their ability to pay.