



Mail Order Parity

[SB 1433](#) by Sen. [Kirk Watson](#) (D-Austin) and [HB 2293](#) by Rep. [Dan Gattis](#) (R-Georgetown).

- 1) **Mail-order pharmacy is not necessarily cheaper than community retail pharmacy.**
 - a) Give local pharmacies the chance to offer 90-day drug supplies to their patients. Because most PBM contracts prevent Texas community pharmacies from competing with the PBM-owned mail order pharmacy, a change in law is necessary.
 - b) **Mail order is not always cheaper** than community pharmacy prices. Many **PBMs own their own mail-order pharmacies and have been caught paying themselves more** for mail-order prescriptions than what they reimburse local Texas pharmacies for the same medications!
 - c) **Allow local Texas pharmacies to compete** using the same National Drug Codes (NDC) codes, pricing standards, co-pay structures, and supply limits that the PBM uses for their mail-order pharmacies.
 - d) **There's a conflict-of-interest** when PBMs are hired by the state or employers to contain costs, and they require all patients to use their self-owned mail-order pharmacies for maintenance medicine.
 - e) Without mail order competition, local dollars are leaving their communities and some are going to out-of-state mail order pharmacies.
- 2) **Mail order is not always good for patients.**
 - a) Mail order won't work for sudden illnesses or temperature-sensitive medicines.
 - b) Mail order fragments care for patients with several illnesses and doctors.
 - c) Prescriptions can get lost in the mail and stolen off of doorsteps and from mail boxes.
 - d) Many patients prefer the convenience and counseling provided by their community retail pharmacist.
- 3) **Give patients and employers true choice at no added cost:**
 - a) Allowing community pharmacies to compete at the same price will allow employers to expand pharmacy options for their employees at no extra cost.
 - b) If patients have the same co-pays and have no restrictions on where they need to go for maintenance medicine, then they can pick the service that best fits their needs.
 - c) Because many mail-order businesses dispense only a 90-day supply of drugs, employers and patients who must use mail order may be paying for drugs never fully used.