



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

October 26, 2011

Cliff "C.J." Guffey
President
(202) 842-4246

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing on behalf of the American Postal Workers Union to request that you veto Assembly Bill 5502-B. The APWU is the world's largest postal union, representing more than 220,000 employees in the Clerk, Maintenance, and Motor Vehicle crafts.

While we appreciate that collectively bargained plans are exempt from the provisions of this bill – and are thus spared from the added cost that would otherwise be imposed – we take issue with the underlying attack on mail as an important vehicle for delivering medicines to thousands of New York residents.

Mail is a vital and dependable delivery mechanism that many Americans rely on for their medications. We strongly object to some of the characterizations raised by supporters of A5502-B which seem to imply that state policy should steer patients away from a mail service pharmacy. The mail pharmacy provides an excellent alternative for rural and homebound patients and sending prescriptions via the mail also supports local jobs like those of the 17,659 APWU workers across the state of New York.

Furthermore, we know from our own experience with the benefits we provide to our members that mail pharmacies save money. We therefore encourage our members to use the mail option in order to help make better use of plan resources and to minimize out-of-pocket costs for members themselves. Why would the state want to prohibit these types of arrangements; shouldn't those options be available to all New York patients and plans?

Please resist any affront that may be aimed at mail and instead side with the logical and rational idea that lower copays can and should be used to encourage patients to make better choices. We respectfully urge you to veto A5502-B. Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Cliff Guffey
President

cc: Lawrence Schwartz, Secretary
Mylan Denerstein, Counsel
Lisa Ullman, Assistant Counsel