

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE**

**Meeting Jointly**  
**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**  
**2:00 PM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Ricky Hill, Chair; Justin Boyd, Jonathan Dismang, Jimmy Hickey, Jr, Missy Irvin, Mark Johnson, and Clint Penzo; Representatives John Maddox, Chair; Fred Allen, Les D. Eaves, Denise Jones Ennett, Jon S. Eubanks, Brian S. Evans, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Vivian Flowers, Grant Hodges, Lee Johnson, Jack Ladyman, Robin Lundstrum, Mark Perry, Jay Richardson, Les Warren, and Jim Wooten

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Alan Clark, Tyler Dees, Ben Gilmore, Kim Hammer, Mark Johnson, Bryan King, and Fredrick Love; Representatives Brandon Achor, Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Cameron Cooper, Steve Hollowell, Lane Jean, Johnny Rye, and Joy Springer

Representative Maddox called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Approve the March 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Representative Eubanks made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Hill, and the motion carried.

**Discussion on Out of Network Providers Billing and Insurance [Exhibit C1-C2]**

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Mason, MD, Emergency Medicine Specialist, Cabot Emergency Hospital; Dr. John P. Weddle, DO, Fort Smith; Dr. Justin White, MD, Cabot; and Sammie Robertson, Chief Executive Officer, North Arkansas Regional Medical Center; discussed the challenges of hospital operations grappled with burdens of prolonged and reduced pharmaceutical reimbursement rates, insufficient coverage for patients as a result of transitioning to out-of network providers by insurance companies, and constrained staffing levels.

**Update from the Arkansas Insurance Department**

Alan McClain, Commissioner, Arkansas Insurance Department, Department of Commerce, and Booth Rand, General Counsel, Arkansas Insurance Department, provided a status update on pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) complaints and shared insight on how providers can assist in bringing discrepancies to the attention of the Arkansas Insurance Department by filing complaints.

**Update from the Arkansas Pharmacists Association [Handout E]**

John Vincent, CEO, Arkansas Pharmacists Association, addressed the challenges associated with Arkansas PBMs and their impact on declining and inequitable pharmaceutical reimbursement rates for local pharmacies.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.