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**National CooperativeRx Endorsed by Employers' Coalition on Health for Rx Benefits**  
*Illinois Employers Gain Purchasing Power, Accountability through Partnership*

National CooperativeRx, an innovative coalition of 450 employers and organizations across the nation that have joined together to purchase prescription benefits for employees, has been endorsed by the Employers' Coalition on Health (ECOH) serving Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin.

As Paul Brand, Executive Director of ECOH, explained, "After careful evaluation of our options, National CooperativeRx gets our highest recommendation for pharmacy benefits," Brand said. "Not only are we impressed with their level of discounts and rebates, but we're confident our members will benefit long term from their cutting edge clinical programs and regular audits that will ensure employers are getting the savings they deserve."

Brand says ECOH's mission is to make high quality, high value health care accessible to more than 60 employers who are members of the coalition. He said National CooperativeRx is the ideal pharmacy benefits partner given their similar mission and unique business model as a not-for-profit employer owned cooperative.

Greg Horstman, CEO of National CooperativeRx, explained the two coalitions' common origins. "Our cooperative was born when employers came together to control their overall drug spend, make better decisions with better data and gain access to transparent information about their pharmacy management," he said. "ECOH's gone down the same path on the medical side and today serves as a model for the nation."

ECOH and National CooperativeRx believe their partnership will do much to advance the mission of both organizations. "ECOH members will gain the clout of a 250,000 member purchasing pool," Horstman said, adding, "We see eye to eye on the importance of bending the trend and adding value to health purchasing."

**About ECOH and National CooperativeRx**

The Employers' Coalition on Health (ECOH) was founded in 1995 by ten Rockford-area employers with a common goal of controlling health care costs through direct contracts with providers, while focusing on quality and appropriate delivery of care. Since then, the Coalition has grown to include more than 60 northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin companies, representing nearly 50,000 covered lives.

National CooperativeRx is a division of WisconsinRx, founded in 2003 by three employer coalitions. Today, the not for profit cooperative has 450 employer-owners across the U.S. Volume purchasing allows all National CooperativeRx members, regardless of size or revenue, to access deep drug discounts and enhanced clinical programs typically offered only to the largest companies in the nation.

At the same time national pharmacy cost trend has increased ten to twelve percent annually, National CooperativeRx members have benefitted from average annual cost increases of just 1.3 percent.

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