

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

As health and medical advocates, we know first-hand that some Ohioans struggle with the costs for prescription drugs. We also know that policymakers in Congress and the Executive branch have heard from constituents and patients from across the country demanding solutions to ensure affordability and access.

We are alarmed with the role that pharmacy benefit managers – or PBMs – play in driving up out-of-pocket costs for patients. Today, the three biggest PBMs manage more than 80% of prescription drugs sold in the United States. Although they were conceived with the goal of negotiating savings and processing prescription drug claims, PBMs have come to use their market share to hoard the savings they negotiate from drugmakers and exclude less expensive prescription medications from formularies. The result is higher out-of-pocket costs for patients and reduced access to the drugs their doctors prescribe.

As you know, *The Columbus Dispatch* was one of the first media outlets to investigate PBMs and expose how they keep the discounts they negotiate, and charge a range of service fees to manufacturers, pharmacies, and other entities in the supply chain to maximize their profits instead of passing savings to patients. In 2019, the [Senate Finance Committee issued a bipartisan report](#) into insulin prices, which found that some PBMs have secured rebates on the drug as high as 70%. As the report noted, “it’s the PBM or health plan who ultimately decide a drug’s formulary placement and the patient’s cost-sharing responsibility.”

We appreciate your efforts to call for PBM accountability and reform, including cosponsoring legislation that would ensure 100% of the prescription drug rebates PBMs negotiate are passed along to patients at the pharmacy counter.

Bipartisan opportunities to advance these essential reforms currently exist. The Prescription Pricing for the People Act (S. 1388) would direct the Federal Trade Commission to investigate how some PBM practices impact patients and improve transparency in the prescription drug supply chain. We believe this type of common-sense solution should be included in any legislative package targeting prescription drug prices.

Senator Brown, you have forged a reputation as a champion for patients on the issue of out-of-pocket prescription drug costs and we thank you for your consistent, steadfast work on these policies. We hope your colleagues join you in your efforts to advance these patient-focused solutions.

Sincerely,





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American College of Cardiology.