

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
2110 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
2111 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

CC: Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health

Chairman Guthrie, Chairman Griffith, Ranking Member Pallone, Ranking Member DeGette, and Members of the Subcommittee on Health:

On behalf of the PBM Accountability Project, we thank you for convening the February 11, 2026, hearing, “Lowering Health Care Costs for All Americans: An Examination of the Prescription Drug Supply Chain.” Your continued focus on the prescription drug supply chain reflects what patients, employers and pharmacists experience every day: insurance middlemen – pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) – play a central role in driving up the out-of-pocket costs of prescriptions and hindering access to needed medications. Members of both parties have rightly concluded that reform is needed to bring transparency to practices that harm patients, employers, unions and local pharmacies.

Recent hearings in Congress have made clear that insurance middlemen including PBMs are inflating drug prices, restricting choice, and undermining independent and community pharmacies. Recent legislative action – including the passage of critical PBM reforms in the bipartisan spending package for fiscal year 2026 – marks an important step toward a more transparent, accountable and affordable prescription drug system. In addition, enhanced oversight and enforcement actions by federal agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission’s ongoing scrutiny of PBM business practices, underscore the need to address anti-competitive conduct and conflicts of interest in the prescription drug supply chain.

Most recently, the FTC’s landmark settlement with Cigna’s Express Scripts requires the PBM to end spread pricing, delink manufacturer payments from drug list prices, relocate its rebate group purchasing organization (GPO) and adopt a more transparent, cost-based model. These changes are expected to reduce patients’ out-of-pocket costs for drugs like insulin by up to \$7 billion over 10 years and bring millions of dollars in new revenue to community pharmacies. Further, the Express Scripts settlement demonstrates that aggressive oversight can curb practices that have driven copays higher while squeezing independent pharmacies, including opaque rebating and below-cost reimbursement that have contributed to “pharmacy deserts” in too many communities.

Your hearing series on healthcare affordability is a critical opportunity to build on this momentum and to examine how each link in the prescription drug supply chain affects what patients pay at the pharmacy counter. Congress now has growing public support and momentum from both legislative progress and enforcement actions to move forward with additional reforms.

We urge you to use this hearing to advance additional comprehensive insurance middlemen reforms that restore accountability in the prescription drug supply chain, lower out-of-pocket costs at the pharmacy counter and protect the patients and communities who depend on a fair and functioning system. Insurers and their affiliated PBMs and GPOs should be required to operate with real transparency, align their incentives with patients and plan sponsors, and refrain from practices that steer patients away from independent and community pharmacies or that inappropriately raise costs.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued attention to the role of PBMs and other insurance middlemen in driving prescription drug costs. The PBM Accountability Project stands ready to work with you and your staff as you develop and advance legislative solutions that build on recent reforms and enforcement actions and deliver on the promise of affordable medicines for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark", written in a cursive style.

Mark Blum  
Managing Director, PBM Accountability Project