

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

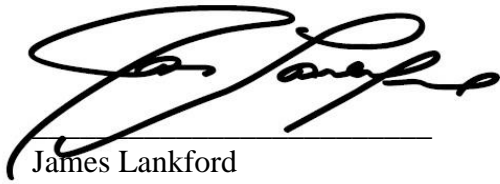
We write to call attention to the immediate need to enact pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reforms to reduce Americans' prescription drug costs and protect patient access to pharmacies across our country.

Already in the 118th Congress, bipartisan legislation has advanced through several committees, addressing specific PBM practices that for far too long have threatened patient access to low-cost drugs and pharmacies that serve communities nationwide. We have an opportunity now to advance bipartisan legislation that both saves significant taxpayer dollars and also – for the first time – enforces reasonable and relevant terms that ensures pharmacies' ability to serve patients. There are few issues that unite members of the 118th Congress like reforms that result in savings and accountability.

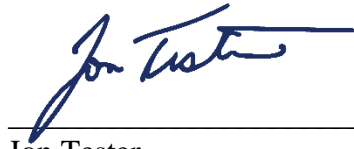
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently wrote to PBMs and health plans, saying, “We are hearing an increasing number of concerns about certain practices by some plans and [PBMs] that threaten the sustainability of many pharmacies, impede access to care, and put increased burden on health care providers.” We have heard directly from our constituents that harmful and aggressive tactics of some PBMs continue to worsen year over year, and that action is needed now to protect pharmacies or potential closure is imminent. Many of our constituents report that some PBMs are reimbursing pharmacies even further below the pharmacies' cost for the prescriptions that they fill – especially in Medicare. Congress must act to ensure proper oversight and transparency.

Immediate action is needed to address these harmful practices by PBMs. Americans deserve and expect protection from inflated prescription drug costs, forced pharmacy closures, formulary manipulation, and barriers to their pharmacy of choice that result from harmful PBM tactics. We cannot sit idly by while patients suffer. We urge you to work as early as this month to enact specific PBM reforms that address these concerns and capitalize on the bipartisan effort and momentum in the House and Senate.


Sincerely,



James Lankford
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



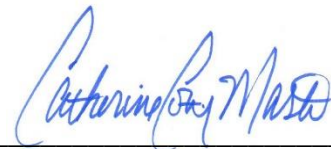
Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Joe Manchin
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



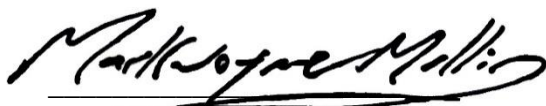
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



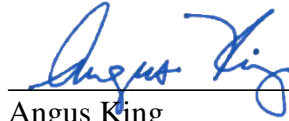
James E. Risch
United States Senate



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Angus King
United States Senator



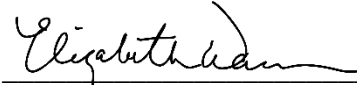
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Mark Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator