



**CROHN'S
& COLITIS
FOUNDATION**

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

As leading advocates for ensuring Americans have broad access to affordable low-cost medicines, we strongly urge Congress to swiftly pass pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reforms that ensure patient access to more affordable healthcare.

We believe that every American deserves access to needed medicines for themselves and their families, especially lower-cost medicines. Nine million Americans skip their prescription drugs due to cost, and an additional 82% of Americans say the cost of their prescription drugs is 'unreasonable.' PBMs play a role in increasing the costs of medicine by distorting the list price of medications to support their bottom line. PBMs make money by favoring medications that have an artificially inflated list price coupled with a large "rebate". These rebates are not passed on to patients or their families.

PBMs also control which prescription medicines are available to patients, both in the Medicare program and on commercial health plans, through their drug formularies. The largest three PBMs control access to 80% of the prescription drug marketplace. Today, PBMS are incentivized to steer patients away from lower-cost medicines that don't offer steep rebates. All too often this means that patients are unable to access lower-cost medicines, such as generics and biosimilars. In the end, it is the patients who pay the price, either by being required to pay co-insurance on an artificially high list price or by being denied access to lower-cost medication. Patients are then left to choose between their critical medications and other life expenses.

We strongly support PBM reforms to ensure that patients have ready access to their needed therapies. We hope we can depend on you to address the market forces that deny access to generics and biosimilars that enable employers to offer plans with these lower-cost options to their employees.

We urge you to pass meaningful PBM reform now to help ensure patients can access the care that they need. Thank you for your consideration and support. Please reach out to emckeon@crohnscolitisfoundation.org or Bari.Talente@nmss.org if you have any questions about these issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

AiArthritis

Aimed Alliance

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Patient Access

ALS Association

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Behçet's Disease Association

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Gastroenterology

American College of Physicians

American College of Rheumatology

American Gastroenterological Association

American Kidney Fund

American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders

American Pharmacists Association

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

AnCan Foundation
Ancient Song, Inc.
Arthritis Foundation
Autoimmune Association
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Caregiver Action Network
Children with Diabetes
Chronic Disease Coalition
Clusterbusters, Inc
Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients (CHAMP)
Community Liver Alliance
COPD Foundation
DFW Business Group on Health
Diabetes Leadership Council
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC)
Digestive Health Physicians Association
Epilepsy Foundation
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Global Liver Institute
Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health
HealthHIV
HealthyWomen
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation

International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN) (Biomarker Collaborative, Exon 20 Group, MET Crusaders, PD-L1 Amplifieds)

Immune Deficiency Foundation

Infusion Access Foundation

Infusion Providers Alliance

Kansas Business Group on Health

KidneyCAN

LUNgevity Foundation

Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.

Lupus Foundation of America

MANA, A National Latina Organization

Miles for Migraine

National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research

National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

National Association For Continence

National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration (NADONA)

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

National Blood Clot Alliance

National Community Pharmacists Association

National Consumers League

National Eczema Association

National Grange

National Health Council

National Hispanic Health Foundation

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Minority Quality Forum

National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Organization of Rheumatology Management
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Nutritional Therapy for IBD
Patients Rising
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition (PPCC)
Pennsylvania Society of Gastroenterology
Premier Gastroenterology of Kansas City
Prevent Blindness
RetireSafe
Rheumatology Nurses Society
Shades of Blue Project
Sjogren's Foundation
South Asian IBD Alliance
Spondylitis Association of America
StopAfib.org/American Foundation for Women's Health
The AIDS Institute
The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
The Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health
Tourette Association of America
United Ostomy Association of America, Inc.
U.S. Pain Foundation
United Cerebral Palsy
Vasculitis Foundation
Washington Health Alliance
ZERO Prostate Cancer