

WTAS: PBM Act

B. Douglas Hoey, pharmacist, MBA, CEO, National Community Pharmacists Association:

“PBMs have a choice — operate as a PBM or operate as a pharmacy, but you can’t have it both ways. Having both functions under one roof is a huge conflict of interest and drives up prescription drug prices. The Patients Before Monopolies Act is critical in supporting patients and independent pharmacies and restoring a free market. NCPA is proud to support it and thanks Reps. Harshbarger, Auchincloss, Carter, Nadler, and Nehls, and Sens. Warren, Hawley, Marshall and Fetterman for their leadership.”

Greg Reybold, Vice President of Public Policy, American Pharmacy Cooperative, Inc.:

“PBM vertical integration with retail, mail-order, and specialty pharmacies has led to reduced patient choice and higher drug prices for patients and payers. The Patients Before Monopolies Act cuts out PBM conflicts of interest at their root by breaking up PBM ownership of and affiliation with pharmacies. APCI commends Senators Warren and Hawley, and Representatives Harshbarger and Auchincloss on fighting against PBM anticompetitive practices and advancing policies that will restore competition to the prescription drug marketplace.”

Monique Whitney, Executive Director, Pharmacists United for Truth and Transparency:

“With the reintroduction of the *Patients Before Monopolies Act (PBM Act)*, we are grateful to Senators Warren and Hawley and Representatives Harshbarger and Auchincloss for standing up for patients and pharmacies. For too long, the largest health insurers have resorted to fear and intimidation tactics, expending substantial resources in order to scare and confuse the public into thinking PBM reform will be bad for them. With this new legislation, PBMs will finally be held accountable for years of abusing their role as ‘benefits administrators’ to undercut pharmacy providers while also profiteering off the backs of unsuspecting employers, patients and taxpayers.”

Madelaine Feldman, MD, FACR; Rheumatologist; Vice President, Advocacy & Government Affairs; Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations; New Orleans, Louisiana:

“Divesting PBMs from owning pharmacies will stop the conflict of interest that drives patients into PBM-owned specialty pharmacies where specialty generic drug prices are kept artificially high. The Patients Before Monopolies Act levels the playing field for community pharmacists and finally puts patients ahead of PBM profits.”

Terry Wilcox, CEO of Patients Rising:

"Patients Rising supports policies that put patients and caregivers at the center of healthcare while advancing greater transparency, accountability, and competition across the system. For many patients, especially those in rural and underserved communities, access to trusted local pharmacy care remains an important part of navigating the healthcare system. The Patients Before Monopolies Act reflects these concerns, and we appreciate Senators Warren and Hawley and Representatives Harshbarger and Auchincloss for continuing the conversation around policies aimed at strengthening patient trust, access, and confidence in healthcare."

Robert Levin, MD, President, Alliance for Transparent & Affordable Prescriptions:

"The Patients Before Monopolies Act takes an important step toward restoring integrity and competition in healthcare by ending the deeply flawed model where PBMs and insurers can own the very providers they oversee and reimburse. When the same corporations control the financing, administration, and delivery of care, patients and independent providers are put at a disadvantage. Healthcare decisions should be driven by what is best for patients, not by vertically integrated corporations maximizing profits through self-preferencing and consolidation."

Steve Hoffart, R.Ph., Chairman, American Pharmacies:

"American Pharmacies strongly supports the Patients Before Monopolies Act. When PBMs own pharmacies, the resulting self-dealing and conflicts of interest distort the marketplace and too often undermine affordable, accessible, patient-centered care. American Pharmacies and our 700 independent pharmacy members across the country thank the bill's sponsors for their leadership in confronting one of the root causes of rising costs and barriers to care."

Morgan Harper, Director of Policy and Advocacy at the American Economic Liberties Project:

"Giant PBMs and insurers owning their own pharmacies has driven independent pharmacies out of business and reduced patient access to quality care. The Patients Before Monopolies Act addresses the root cause of this problem — consolidated market power — by eliminating the inherent conflicts of interest within the 'Big Three' PBM business model. We are thrilled to see Sen. Warren and Sen. Hawley and Reps. Harshbarger and Auchincloss lead this bipartisan effort to lower drug costs, protect independent retail pharmacies, improve patient access to care, and break up Big Medicine."

