

July 14, 2025

The Honorable Earl L. “Buddy” Carter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CC: Speaker Mike Johnson, Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Majority Whip Tom Emmer, Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Whip Katherine Clark

Dear Congressman Carter,

The PBM Accountability Project, representing a wide range of stakeholders across the business, labor, patient, consumer and pharmacy communities, commends you for introducing H.R. 4317, the *PBM Reform Act* in the 119th Congress. We believe it is essential for this bill to be passed by both chambers of Congress at the earliest possible opportunity to bring prescription drug cost relief now to millions of Americans and to bring an end to the predatory practices that have severely distorted the drug pricing system.

Your legislation would address the warped incentives and broken business practices that plague our healthcare system thanks to the uniquely American middlemen that keep prices high for patients and employers for the medicines they need. Today, the four largest PBMs have cornered the market and now control 85% of prescription drug claims. They have used this power to craft a system that enables them to drive up the list price of prescription drugs, extort sizeable rebates from drug manufacturers, then steer patients to more expensive medications that yield the greatest profits.

The *PBM Reform Act* will bring an end to this pricing infrastructure that is rigged against consumers, employers and taxpayers. By de-linking PBM revenues from drug prices, the perverse incentives to force patients to buy higher-priced drugs through restrictive formularies will disappear. Paying PBMs a fixed, fair market fee for their services is the right thing to do and will bring immediate cost relief at the pharmacy counter.

We also applaud the bill’s ban on the indefensible practice of spread pricing, in which PBMs charge their health plan clients significantly more for a drug than they pay the pharmacy for dispensing it. PBMs must practice greater transparency in their business practices. The pricing machinations of these middlemen have been enclosed in an opaque ‘black box’ for far too long, leaving no one – not even Congress – with a full understanding of how our dollars are flowing or how prices are established.

PBM reform has strong bipartisan support. In the last Congress, bills to correct PBM abuses were approved by committees in the House and Senate with bipartisan majorities. This approach also aligns with President Trump’s repeated call to knock out the role of middlemen in the drug pricing process.

The PBM Accountability Project stands ready to support the *PBM Reform Act*. This bill is an essential solution to a persistent and worsening problem in our nation's health care system. We thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Blum
Managing Director, PBM Accountability Project