



**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](mailto:emckeon@crohnscolitisfoundation.org) or [Bari.Talente@nmss.org](mailto: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