

PATIENTS RISING NOW

May 03, 2023

The Honorable Buddy Carter
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Carter,

On behalf of patients and pharmacists across the country, we would like to thank and commend you for introducing The *Protecting Patients Against PBM Abuses Act* to reform the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) system. Your tenure in the House of Representatives reflects an unwavering commitment to health policy aimed at helping patients, and this bill serves as an excellent continuation of that commitment. Given both your track record and background as a pharmacist, there may be no more appropriate Member of either Chamber to lead this charge than you, and for that we sincerely thank you.

Formed in 2015, Patients Rising Now has developed a significant following of patients and caregivers and has guided them on their journeys to advocate for themselves and their loved ones to get the care and treatments they need to live a fulfilling life. As a patient advocacy organization, we support reforms and legislation aimed at advancing patient access to affordable, quality healthcare.

The PBM industry is big and widespread; there's likely not a person in America who hasn't dealt with one of them directly or indirectly. The vertical integration and market consolidation in the industry allows them to use underhanded tactics. Where we see their tactics take the hardest toll is among rare disease patients, chronic disease patients, and local pharmacists. Tactics such as spread pricing, clawbacks, not reflecting the rebates they receive in their pricing, copay accumulators, removing treatments from formulary with next-to-no warning, patient-steering to financially aligned pharmacies, and more serve to enrich themselves at the express detriment of any other involved parties.

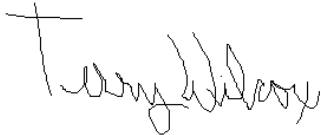
Patients rationing or foregoing treatments and independent, local pharmacies shuttering their doors permanently are just some of the all too real scenarios that take place because of these practices, and will continue to occur unless something is done. These practices are able to be employed, in large part, because of a severe lack of transparency and oversight into the industry. To that end, we appreciate that your legislation mandates a flat rate fee for services rendered by

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PBMs, explicit prohibition on spread pricing, and strict reporting requirements and penalties for noncompliance.

The calls for meaningful and impactful PBM reform have fallen on deaf ears for too long. Congress has a unique opportunity to pass legislation to right the ship and improve the lives of patients everywhere. We would like to thank you again for introducing this bill and we remain committed to working with you and Congress to see this legislation over the finish line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Wilcox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first letter.

Terry Wilcox
Co-Founder and CEO