

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 23, 2025

Representative Rob Nosse  
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nosse:

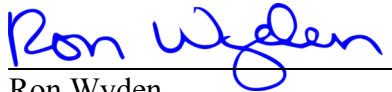
I write today to commend the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care for your attention to the burden pharmacy benefit managers (“PBMs”) impose on independent, community pharmacies.

I strongly share the Committee's concern that PBMs are limiting patient choices by unduly restricting access to out-of-network pharmacies. Exclusionary PBM practices have grown increasingly aggressive in recent years, often imposing extreme financial strain on independent, local pharmacies. Dozens of local pharmacies across Oregon have been forced to close due to high costs. This is part of a national trend. According to recent data, nearly 1 in 3 pharmacies across the U.S. have closed permanently between 2010 and 2020, often in rural and underserved areas. Many communities depend on local pharmacists for care, access to medication, and delivery of other services, such as patient education, management of chronic disease, and preventative care.

As the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, I am deeply engaged in efforts at the federal level to provide relief to community pharmacies from these types of abuses. I am particularly concerned by the market concentration in the PBM industry and the impact of the vertical integration on their ability to mark up drug prices and reduce patients' access to low-cost generics. The FTC estimates that the top three PBMs processed nearly 80% of all prescriptions in the U.S. This market power allows them to steer patients to affiliated pharmacies where they can mark-up drug prices for billions of dollars in additional revenue. PBMs are also able to pay their affiliated pharmacies at a higher rate, causing smaller, independent pharmacies to be driven out of business. These business practices have led to patients to have fewer options when they choose a pharmacy and higher costs at the pharmacy counter. In 2022, at my urging, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a rule requiring PBMs to pass through all pharmacy price concessions they receive to patients at the time prescriptions are dispensed. In 2023, I led passed a bipartisan effort to pass a PBM reform package through the Senate Finance committee. These reforms will help create more transparency and predictability over PBM payments to pharmacies, protect independent pharmacies, and lower drug costs to patients.

Despite this progress, there is still much more work to be done at both the federal and state level to protect community pharmacies from unfair PBM practices. I plan to continue delving into this issue and advancing policy at the federal level, and look forward to learning more about the important work your Committee is doing moving forward. Thank you again for giving this issue the time and attention it deserves.

Sincerely,



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Finance