

February 3, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
S-208, United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
S-221, United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
H-204, United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leaders Jeffries, Thune, and Schumer:

As you consider a spending package to address the expiration of the continuing resolution next month, we urge you to include the strong, bipartisan pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) transparency and accountability reforms that were promulgated to be part of the continuing resolution before being pared down before passage at the end of last year. The undersigned groups represent the many employers who collectively provide almost 180 million employees with employer-sponsored health insurance. We strongly support these commonsense, pro-competition reforms that will lead to lower costs for employers and better access to more affordable prescription drugs for workers and their families.

Drug costs contribute significantly to the health care affordability crisis in the U.S. Because of misaligned incentives under current law, the largest PBMs reportedly engage in practices that drive up drug prices instead of lowering them. The three largest PBMs control over 80 percent of prescription drug claims in the U.S., giving them immense market power and making it very challenging for employers to negotiate contract terms for affordable medication prices. This results in higher costs for patients, employers, and taxpayers.

There has been wide support for addressing the lack of transparency and anti-competitive practices of PBMs. This was evidenced by the consistent call by congressional members to take action. In the 118th Congress, seven committees across both chambers voted overwhelmingly in favor of PBM transparency and reforms, which culminated in the bipartisan health care package that was under consideration for the continuing resolution. This important foundation for change has been laid – now is the time to finish the work and include these reforms in a March spending deal. It is imperative that Congress finish what it started – doing so will have meaningful impact on the millions of Americans who will be impacted by these commonsense reforms.

By taking action now, Congress will ensure that the private health care market functions as intended, preventing companies from steering patients toward higher-priced medications and away from more affordable options. We strongly urge you to act swiftly and pass the bipartisan PBM transparency and accountability reforms that were agreed to by leadership in December. Employers, their workers, patients and taxpayers all across America are counting on it to help mitigate their ever-growing health care costs.

Sincerely,

American Benefits Council

Economic Alliance of Michigan

The ERISA Industry Committee

National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

Purchaser Business Group on Health

Silicon Valley Employers Forum

Small Business Majority

CC: Members of the 119th Congress