



February 18, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie,

On behalf of the Kentucky Pharmacists Association (KPhA) and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), congratulations on your well-earned election as Chairman of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee for the 119th Congress. We appreciate your leadership and commitment to advancing bipartisan efforts to bring transparency to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and reduce healthcare costs.

Kentucky has been at the forefront of PBM reform, setting the standard for transparency and fairness in the healthcare marketplace, while Washington continues to lag behind. We stand ready to support your work to push long-overdue PBM reforms across the finish line—ensuring small businesses can continue serving their communities and that patients have access to affordable, high-quality care from their trusted local pharmacists.

As you take on this role, we urge the Committee to prioritize the following bipartisan, bicameral reforms:

- **Enacting PBM reform in Medicare and Medicaid:** The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that these provisions, alongside additional PBM reforms, could save U.S. taxpayers nearly \$4 billion. These reforms are essential to curbing PBM-driven prescription drug cost inflation, preventing pharmacy closures, and protecting patients' access to their preferred pharmacies.

We strongly encourage Congress to pass the following provisions from the most recent healthcare package as part of the March 14th funding package or another legislative vehicle:

- *Sec. 112.* Requiring a survey of retail community pharmacy drug prices to establish benchmarks for fair Medicaid reimbursement, with implementation within six months of enactment.
- *Sec. 113.* Banning PBM spread pricing in Medicaid-managed care, which has unfairly profited PBMs at the expense of states and patients, effective mid-2026.

- Sec. 226. Ensuring pharmacy access and choice for Medicare beneficiaries by enforcing reasonable and transparent Part D contract terms and establishing an "any willing pharmacy" participation standard, beginning January 1, 2028.
- **Advancing legislation to protect seniors' access to pharmacist-provided care:**
Since 2014, you have championed efforts to expand Medicare patients' access to pharmacist-provided services in rural and underserved areas. The bipartisan Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services (ECAPS) legislation, led by Rep. Adrian Smith (NE-3) and Senate Majority Leader John Thune (SD), has gained strong support with [148 bipartisan cosponsors in the House](#) and [29 in the Senate](#). This legislation is backed by [113 pharmacy deans](#)—including Sullivan University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the University of Kentucky—along with hundreds of pharmacists and patient advocates.

You've heard directly from Kentucky's community pharmacists about the challenges they face in keeping their doors open under PBM pressure. While the PBM reforms scheduled to take effect in 2026 and 2028 are critical steps forward, our pharmacists need help now. Without immediate action in 2025, many pharmacies will be forced to close—leaving seniors without access to the pharmacist-provided preventive care they rely on.

KPhA and APhA are committed to working with you to advance these priorities, safeguard community pharmacies, and ensure patient access to essential care—especially in the rural and underserved areas that need it most.

Kind regards,

Ben Mudd, PharmD
Executive Director
Kentucky Pharmacists Association

Michael Baxter
Vice President
American Pharmacists Association