

RetireSafe

February 14, 2025

Via Electronic Delivery

Dear President Trump,

I am writing on behalf of RetireSafe to urge your Administration to work with Congress and act swiftly to advance pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reform. As you know, Congress missed a critical opportunity to rein in these middlemen at the end of 2024. While your Administration takes historic first actions, we hope that signing PBM reform legislation is part of your ambitious first 100 days.

As an advocacy organization dedicated to promoting public policies that protect senior healthcare, PBM reform is a top priority. These bad actors have historically created access and affordability barriers to care for America's aging population and it's time to take action.

Just recently, a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) [report](#) revealed that drug middlemen have significantly marked up drugs used to treat cancer, HIV, heart disease, and other serious conditions. These upcharges involve marking up lifesaving drugs by hundreds or thousands of percent. In one case, PBMs paid affiliate pharmacies 5,000% more than in commercial health plans and 4,000% more than Medicare for a cancer pill. An FTC official correctly labeled this as "significant overcharging," by PBMs, highlighting just how exploitative these practices have become. This grossly unethical behavior is hurting older Americans, many of whom take a variety of medications to treat a myriad of conditions and are on fixed incomes. Congress must put an end to these abuses.

At the end of last year, critical PBM reforms gained bipartisan support and significant momentum and almost crossed the finish line. At one point, many members of Congress [sought to include](#) policies that would rein in these corporate giants in the end-of-year funding bill. These included requiring PBMs to pass rebates on to drug plan sponsors and bringing greater transparency to drug spending practices, both vital priorities that would improve the healthcare landscape significantly.

While these reforms ultimately did not pass, they represent an important first step in protecting seniors' access to medications. Furthermore, delinking PBM compensation from drug list price would remove the incentive to drive up drug prices, aligning with the interest of patients and the healthcare system rather than corporate profits.

Following your election, you acknowledged that something had to be done about PBMs. America's seniors are counting on you and your Administration to carry out this commitment. We urge you to push Congress to introduce and pass Medicare PBM reform in the upcoming legislation needed to extend government funding beyond March 15. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Gibbons
President
RetireSafe