



The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 15, 2024

Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

As leading advocates for ensuring Americans have broad access to affordable low-cost medicines, we strongly urge Congress to swiftly pass pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reforms that ensure patient access to more affordable healthcare.

We believe that every American deserves access to needed medicines for themselves and their families, especially lower-cost medicines. Nine million Americans skip their prescription drugs due to cost, and an additional 82% of Americans say the cost of their prescription drugs is 'unreasonable.' PBMs play a role in increasing the costs of medicine by distorting the list price of medications to support their bottom line. PBMs make money by favoring medications that have an artificially inflated list price coupled with a large "rebate". These rebates are not passed on to patients or their families.

PBMs also control which prescription medicines are available to patients, both in the Medicare program and on commercial health plans, through their drug formularies. The largest three PBMs control access to 80% of the prescription drug marketplace. Today, PBMs are incentivized to steer patients away from lower-cost medicines that don't offer steep rebates. All too often this means that patients are unable to access lower-cost medicines, such as generics and

biosimilars. In the end, it is the patients who pay the price, either by being required to pay co-insurance on an artificially high list price or by being denied access to lower-cost medication. Patients are then left to choose between their critical medications and other life expenses.

We strongly support PBM reforms to ensure that patients have ready access to their needed therapies. We hope we can depend on you to address the market forces that deny access to generics and biosimilars that enable employers to offer plans with these lower-cost options to their employees.

We urge you to pass meaningful PBM reform now to help ensure patients can access the care that they need. Thank you for your consideration and support. Please reach out to [emckeon@crohnscolitisfoundation.org](mailto:emckeon@crohnscolitisfoundation.org) or [Bari.Talente@nmss.org](mailto:Bari.Talente@nmss.org) if you have any questions about these issues.

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

National Multiple Sclerosis Society