

New Pro-Pharmacy Legislation Introduced in Congress

The NPSC Advocacy Center would like to make you aware of two new Congressional bills aimed at pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to help balance the playing field for pharmacies.

The Strengthening Pharmacy Access for Seniors Act seen <u>here</u>, would increase transparency measures on pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and provide seniors with additional options to fill their prescriptions. The bill would specifically require PBMs to reveal the criteria used to classify drugs that are dispensed by certain pharmacies and prevent PBMs from steering patients to certain pharmacies that limit patients' options. The bill is sponsored by Senators Thune (R-SD), Brown (D-OH), Barrasso (R-WY) and Stabenow (D-MI).

Additionally, the *Neighborhood Options for Patients Buying Medicines (NO PBMs) Act* seen <u>here</u>, seeks to improve options and access to prescription drugs for seniors bringing pharmacy benefit managers or PBMs in alignment with Medicare plans, therefore, allowing seniors to shop at their local pharmacy. The bill would modernize Medicare and enhance PBM accountability by preventing them from discriminating against pharmacies that are willing to contract with them, helping seniors to seek care closer to home. The bill is sponsored by Senators Manchin (D-WV) and Blackburn (R-TN).

NPSC is here to help. If you have questions about state or federal PBM bills or regulation, contact our team any time for assistance.

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