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July 17, 2024

Hon. James Comer, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

On behalf of America's seniors, we write to express appreciation for your leadership in investigating the abuses by pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) middlemen that force seniors to pay more out-of-pocket for their medications and that destroy the pharmacy access that seniors count on. We look forward to your July 23 hearing, for which you have called the chief executives of the three largest PBMs to testify and to answer the Committee's questions. We are encouraging the 60 Plus community to watch the hearing because of all that is at stake for seniors' healthcare.

We encourage you to ensure that the hearing lives up to its title: "The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Prescription Drug Markets Part III: Transparency and Accountability." Too often, the PBMs' rhetoric is as manipulative as their practices, so it will be critically important to press the witnesses beyond their "go-to" answers. This is the only way to achieve the transparency and accountability that you seek – in the hearing, and in healthcare.

As you know from your ongoing investigation, you can expect a heavy dose of statements and answers from the PBMs that claim cost savings, that claim heroism in negotiating against pharmaceutical manufacturers, that tout special programs that supposedly can help pharmacies stay afloat, and that emphasize free markets. The PBMs have benefited from contracts and from fear of retribution, which have kept silent the voices of those who know PBMs' harsh tactics the best.

Now, however, this hearing takes place with the benefit of swelling evidence from economic studies, media reports, personal stories, bipartisan outrage in the Congress and in the states, and investigations such as that of your Committee. The nation is better understanding the realities of PBMs' dealings and their negative impacts on the wellness and wallets of seniors – and on all Americans, on employers, on communities, and on the healthcare delivery system.

The 60 Plus Association is a 32-year-old nonpartisan organization working for death tax repeal, saving Social Security and Medicare, affordable prescription drugs, lowering energy costs and other issues affecting senior citizens, 60 Plus calls on support from over 10 million activists across the country. 60 Plus has been called, "an increasingly influential senior citizen's group".

60 Plus Association
American Association of Senior Citizens
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As a nonpartisan senior's advocacy group with a free enterprise, less government, and fewer taxes view towards issues important to seniors, the 60 Plus Association encourages you to enter this hearing and to continue your investigation with all due vigor.

We have called "foul" on the PBMs' pat answers and on "sky is falling" claims that PBMs make to turn back reforms at the federal and state levels. We encourage you to continue to do the same.

Even as the Oversight and Accountability Committee continues with its investigation, the 60 Plus Association encourages you to do your part to ensure the 118th Congress delivers meaningful PBM reform – this year. On an overwhelming and bipartisan basis, the Congress has developed reforms that would protect seniors in Medicare from the middlemen's abuses, that would protect seniors who rely on benefits from their employers, and that would help remedy barriers faced by Americans in Medicaid.

For far too long, the PBMs have operated in the dark and have been allowed to rake in money that seniors need to make ends meet. They also have been allowed to interfere in medical decisions like the best medication for a senior's condition, and they have been allowed to drive out of business the pharmacies that are convenient to, and trusted by, Americans in rural and urban communities alike. We commend the Oversight and Accountability Committee for pressing forward, and we encourage you to do so with the urgency, tenacity, and resolve that this issue requires.

Sincerely,



James Martin
Founder & Chairman



Saul Anuzis
President