

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
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The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform must do everything in our power to protect the lives and safety of federal workers and conduct investigations and adopt changes when current agency practices are failing to keep workers safe. The tragic workplace death of postal worker Nicholas John Acker at the USPS Detroit Network Distribution Center in Allen Park, Michigan last month is as heartbreaking as it was preventable. On November 8, 2025, Nicholas was found trapped in a mail-handling machine and had been dead for approximately 6-8 hours before being found. He checked into work at 11:00am and his body wasn't discovered until 12:30pm the following day. Nicholas had voiced concerns to his fiancée about the facility's operations and safety practices. His APWU union had previously raised concerns about safety measures and procedures at the facility. More than 90 days ago, the union filed a grievance stating that management was pressuring staff to look for letters while the handling machine was operating. Rep. Dingell and I have toured this facility together on several occasions and have expressed our concerns over the years.

Over a month later, more questions remain than answers. Shortly after Nicholas' death, Rep. Dingell and I wrote to Postmaster General Steiner demanding answers and thus far have received none. As the committee with jurisdiction over USPS, COGR must launch an immediate independent investigation of Nicholas' death and the facility and agency practices that created the conditions leading to his tragic workplace death. We need answers. I stand ready to work with my colleagues on legislation to prevent a tragedy like this from happening to any USPS employee ever again.

Another area requiring urgent action from the Committee is the nationwide crisis facing patients and pharmacists due to the takeover of our healthcare system by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). PBMs were supposed to save patients money. Instead, they are driving up prices. The Big 3 PBMs (CVS Caremark, Express Scripts, and OptumRX) have imposed percentage markups of hundreds and thousands on numerous specialty generic drugs dispensed at their affiliated pharmacies—including drugs used to treat cancer, HIV, and other serious diseases and conditions. Local pharmacists are being squeezed to a breaking point by corporate greed. By reimbursing community pharmacists at unsustainably low rates, PBMs are driving them to shut down. About 30 percent of U.S. retail pharmacies that were operating in the previous decade shuttered by 2021. The Committee must act to pursue legislation to reign in PBMs and address this life-or-death crisis of affordability that faces many of our constituents.



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