APhA
American Pharmacists Association

July 21, 2026

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
2106 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Statement for the Record from the American Pharmacists Association in Support of the Pharmacists Fight Back [in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans Act] (H.R. 6610)

Dear Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Garcia, and Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record in support of the Committee's markup of the *Pharmacists Fight Back [in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans Act].* APhA applauds the bipartisan members of the Committee for advancing this legislation to strengthen transparency, accountability, patient choice, and pharmacy access within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program.

More than eight million federal employees, retirees, and their family members rely on the FEHB Program for prescription drug coverage. These beneficiaries deserve a pharmacy benefit that prioritizes patient access and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, not one distorted by opaque pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) business practices that undermine competition, reduce pharmacy participation, and increase costs. As the nation's largest employer-sponsored health insurance program, the FEHB Program should set the standard for transparency, fairness, and accountability in prescription drug benefits.

As pharmacies become financially unable to participate in federal health plan networks, federal employees and their families are left with fewer choices and diminished access to trusted local pharmacists who provide essential medication management, immunizations, preventive services, and chronic disease care.

Recent Office of Personnel Management Office of Inspector General (OPM OIG) audits (Reports 2024-SAG-013, 2024-SAG-022, 2023-SAG-019, and 2022-SAG-029) have highlighted significant concerns regarding pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) operations within the FEHB Program.[1] These audits identified significant instances of retained discounts, pharmacy credits, rebates, and other pricing discrepancies involving FEHB prescription drug programs. The findings raise serious questions regarding transparency, accountability, and whether existing PBM contracting arrangements adequately protect federal employees, retirees, family members, and taxpayers.

These findings reinforce the need for greater transparency and accountability within FEHB pharmacy benefit administration and underscore the importance of the reforms contained in H.R. 6610.

The Pharmacists Fight Back in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans Act takes meaningful steps to address these longstanding concerns. The legislation establishes a transparent reimbursement model based on the National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC), coupled with a professional dispensing fee determined by the States, helping ensure that pharmacies are reimbursed based on the actual cost of acquiring and dispensing medications rather than opaque PBM pricing methodologies.

By tying reimbursement to a transparent benchmark based on NADAC and a professional dispensing fee, the legislation replaces pricing methodologies that are often difficult for plans, pharmacies, and regulators to evaluate. Greater transparency in reimbursement helps ensure that pharmacies are compensated for the actual costs associated with acquiring and dispensing medications while supporting continued access to pharmacy services in local communities.

Importantly, the legislation also protects patient choice by prohibiting PBMs from steering beneficiaries to affiliated pharmacies, limiting access through restrictive network designs, or imposing practices that favor PBM-owned pharmacies over independent or community-based providers. These provisions help preserve competition, maintain beneficiary choice, and ensure that patients may continue receiving care from the pharmacy they know and trust.

In addition, the legislation strengthens oversight by requiring FEHB carriers to cooperate with Office of Personnel Management inspections and establishes meaningful civil monetary penalties, corrective action requirements, and potential debarment for PBMs that repeatedly violate statutory requirements. These accountability measures will provide OPM with stronger tools to ensure compliance while protecting both beneficiaries and taxpayers from abusive business practices.

H.R. 6610 reflects a growing bipartisan consensus that PBM reforms should apply not only in commercial and Medicare markets but also within the FEHB Program. By establishing clear reimbursement standards, prohibiting anti-competitive steering practices, increasing oversight,

[1] U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Office of Inspector General, Audit Reports No. 2024-SAG-013, 2024-SAG-022, 2023-SAG-019, and 2022-SAG-029, available at https://oig.opm.gov/reports

and strengthening enforcement within the FEHB Program, Congress can improve federal employees' and their families' access to pharmacy services while promoting a more competitive and sustainable pharmacy marketplace.

Community pharmacists remain among the most accessible health care providers in America, delivering medication expertise, preventive care, immunizations, chronic disease management, and other essential clinical services that improve patient outcomes while reducing overall health care costs. Preserving access to these providers is critical to ensuring that federal employees, retirees, and their families continue to receive timely, high-quality care in their communities.

In addition to establishing transparent reimbursement standards, the legislation strengthens patient choice protections, increases reporting requirements, and provides enforcement mechanisms designed to deter noncompliance. Collectively, these reforms will help promote competition, preserve access to community pharmacies, and improve confidence in the administration of prescription drug benefits.

Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to submit this statement. APhA strongly supports the Committee's markup and favorable reporting of *the Pharmacists Fight Back [in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans Act]* and looks forward to working with Congress to advance these important reforms. By strengthening transparency, protecting patient choice, promoting fair pharmacy reimbursement, and increasing accountability within the FEHB Program, this legislation represents an important step toward ensuring that federal employees and their families receive the accessible, affordable pharmacy benefits they deserve.

For further information or to get in contact with our nation's pharmacists serving FEHB beneficiaries, please contact Doug Huynh, JD, Director of Congressional Affairs, at dhuynh@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Baxter

Michael Baxter
Vice President, Federal Government Affairs

cc: The Honorable Jake Auchincloss
The Honorable Diana Harshbarger
The Honorable Buddy Carter