

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Diana DeGette**

***Hearing on “An Examination of How Reining in PBMs Will Drive Competition and Lower Costs for Patients”***

**February 26, 2025**

Republicans and Democrats agree on the need to rein in PBM abuses. We know how PBMs play games to pad their bottom lines at the expense of consumers. We know how they take money out of state and federal taxpayers’ pockets when they charge a Medicaid plan more for a drug than they pay a pharmacy.

This isn’t news. I see a number of pharmacists here in the audience—thank you for being here. You might be wondering why we have not gotten PBM reforms signed into law yet.

Last Congress, Democrats and Republicans held more than a dozen hearings in committees in the House and Senate, including three in this Committee, to discuss PBMs. This feels like déjà vu all over again—the need to reform the prescription drug system is clear, including cleaning up how PBMs operate and stopping abuses of their market position at the cost of consumers.

That’s why this Committee passed PBM reforms last Congress, and that’s why we took the work this Committee did and folded it into December’s government funding bill. We were on the brink of passing historic reforms. And then—at the behest of Elon Musk—Republicans balked.

Let me be very clear: Donald Trump and Elon Musk ordering Congressional Republicans to renege on a bipartisan, bicameral agreement is the reason that PBM reforms are not law today. This agreement includes PBM reforms and it also includes bipartisan wins like reauthorizing and adding new funding to the Special Diabetes Programs, encouraging innovation in pediatric rare disease drugs, and reauthorizing CDC support for maternal mortality review committees.

Mr. Chairman, I’d like to ask unanimous consent to enter into the record a list of the policies that Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate agreed upon that have not yet been signed into law because of Elon Musk, Donald Trump, and the chaos of this majority. So, here we are, just talking in a topical hearing yet again about reforms that we all agree on, rather than simply passing those reforms and moving on to other pressing business.

Instead of this reiteration of previous work, this subcommittee could be examining what effect indiscriminate mass layoffs at HHS will have, including slowing down drug and device approvals and hindering our ability to assure the safety of nursing home residents. We could be talking about the threat of avian flu and what this administration needs to do to prevent it from becoming a pandemic and get eggs back on grocery store shelves.

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We could be talking about the impact of gutting Medicaid for working families to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. And we could be looking ahead to oversight of the PBM reforms that should have become law in December.

Thousands of my constituents have contacted my office worried about these issues in the past few weeks, and I'm sure all my colleagues have been hearing the same. But the majority knows that all of these questions that are so important to our constituents are embarrassing to the administration, so they will not entertain them in deference to Elon Musk and Donald Trump.

I hope we can learn soon how the majority intends to get PBM reform and other critical policies signed into law, because after Republicans stopped it cold in December, Americans deserve to know.

Thank you, and I yield back.