

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVE TURNER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take action to limit the harmful impacts and practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and protect the citizens of this state.

WHEREAS, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) are third-party entities that manage prescription drug benefits on behalf of health insurers, employers, and government programs that have significant control over the pricing, availability, and distribution of prescription medications; and

WHEREAS, PBMs are responsible for negotiating drug prices and establishing formularies that influence the cost and accessibility of medications for patients in this state where many individuals rely on Medicaid and other programs that PBMs are responsible for managing; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies and reports have raised concerns about the contributing role of PBMs toward rising drug costs, lack of transparency in pricing, and the imposition of restrictive formularies that limit patient access to necessary medications; and

WHEREAS, the lack of transparency in PBM practices often leads to higher out-of-pocket costs for patients, especially those in underserved communities, and disproportionately affects residents of this state particularly seniors, low-income families, and individuals with chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, this state has long been committed to improving access to affordable healthcare for its residents, and the state has a vested interest in ensuring that any entities involved in healthcare delivery, including PBMs, operate in a way that prioritizes the well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been proposed in congress to increase transparency, accountability, and regulation of PBMs and to ensure that PBMs are held to high standards that protect consumers from unfair practices; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's leadership in healthcare reform can have a profound impact on shaping national policy, and it is essential for our congressional delegation to act in the best interest of the residents of this state to mitigate the harmful effects of PBM practices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Congress to take immediate action to address the harmful practices of pharmacy benefit managers by:

- (1) Increasing transparency in PBM operations, including detailed reporting of pricing negotiations, rebates, and fees paid to PBMs by drug manufacturers, insurers, and other entities.
- (2) Requiring PBMs to pass along the savings from rebates and discounts to consumers, ensuring that patients benefit directly from any negotiated cost reductions.
- (3) Regulating PBM business practices to prevent anti-competitive behavior, such as steering patients to higher-cost drugs or limiting access to medications that are medically necessary.
- (4) Implementing measures to enhance oversight of PBM practices and ensuring they align with the best interests of consumers especially those in vulnerable populations such as the elderly and individuals with chronic conditions.
- (5) Supporting legislation that holds PBMs accountable for any harm caused to patients, including restrictions on the use of prior authorization processes that delay access to necessary prescriptions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges all members of Louisiana's congressional delegation to advocate for reform and support legislation aimed at addressing the harmful effects of PBM practices on the citizens of this state and the nation as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of Louisiana's congressional delegation to the United States Congress.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE