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May 16, 2023

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Senator for Louisiana
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Senator for Vermont
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy and Senator Sanders,

As an organization representing over 2.1 million Americans who are age 50-plus, the Association of Mature American Citizens – AMAC is pleased to see that productive bipartisan conversations are occurring throughout Congress regarding the transparency of pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) anti-competitive business practices.

Your bill, S. 1339, the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform Act, is certainly a step in the right direction. It rightly bans spread pricing, where PBMs keep the price difference between what they charge health plans and what they pay pharmacies for medications. It also bans PBMs from profiting from the practice of “clawing back” the difference between patient co-pays and the cost of medications from the pharmacy as well as other direct and indirect fees.

S. 1339 also requires the rebates received by PBMs from pharmaceutical manufacturers to be passed through to plan sponsors and employers, but not to patients. AMAC has endorsed previous proposals that shared these rebates with Medicare Part D recipients at the pharmacy counter as a means of lowering out-of-pocket expenses. We fully believe that this bill may be improved for Americans who live on fixed incomes during these excessive inflationary times. For this reason, we encourage you to include a provision that favors patients in the rebate pass-through as a potential amendment in a final version of your bill.

Thank you, Senator Cassidy and Senator Sanders, for introducing bipartisan legislation that moves towards transparency in the outpatient prescription drug supply chain. AMAC applauds your efforts and offers our support for the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Carlstrom".

Bob Carlstrom
President
AMAC Action