



August 8, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Please Protect the Integrity of the 340B Program – Oppose the 340B PATIENTS Act

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the ****Partnership for Innovation and Empowerment (PIE)****, we want to share our deep concern about the recently introduced 340B PATIENTS Act (July 22, 2025, by Congresswoman Doris Matsui and Senator Peter Welch). While the bill is meant to protect the 340B Drug Pricing Program, it risks locking in a system that too often benefits large pharmacy chains more than the patients it was designed to serve.

The 340B program was created to help safety-net providers, community health centers, rural hospitals, and other critical care facilities stretch their limited resources so they can serve low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients. This program has been a lifeline, allowing providers to use the savings from discounted medicines to fund services like transportation, mental health support, and preventive care.

But over the years, the growth of “contract pharmacy” arrangements has shifted the focus away from patients. Originally, in 1996, outside contracts were rare and



limited to just one pharmacy per provider. In 2010, that limit was lifted, and the number of contracts exploded by ****over 12,000 percent****. Unfortunately, this expansion happened without the oversight needed to ensure that the benefits reach the people who need them most.

If passed as written, the 340B PATIENTS Act would make this status quo permanent, cementing a system that:

- Lacks transparency and strong accountability measures, making it hard to track whether savings are truly going to patients.
- Often fails to pass on discounts at the pharmacy counter, leaving uninsured and underinsured patients paying more than they should.
- Adds unnecessary administrative complexity, driving up costs for the healthcare system and, ultimately, for taxpayers and patients.
- Concentrates contract pharmacies in wealthier areas while leaving rural and underserved communities with fewer options, deepening existing health disparities.

We believe Congress should take this opportunity to strengthen, not weaken, the 340B program. That means requiring transparent reporting, real oversight, and direct benefits for patients. This is the only way to ensure that the program continues to be a tool for health equity rather than a profit stream for big corporations.

PIE is ready to work with you on a reform plan that keeps the original spirit of 340B alive, helping safety-net providers stretch their resources and making sure the people who need help the most are the ones who get it.

Sincerely,

Brady J. Buckner
President
Partnership for Innovation and Empowerment (PIE)
202-680-4749
bbuckner@pieus.org