



SCL-GPI Launches “Patients Over Profits” Health Equity Campaign

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“Corporate hospital conglomerates are abusing the 340B program; prescription medicines are being stolen from poor neighborhoods and sold to affluent patients for profit.”

Washington, DC – The SCL Global Policy Initiative today announced the launch of the “Patients Over Profits” national health equity campaign. The campaign is intended to raise awareness of and pressure elected officials about the abuse and misuse of the federal government’s “340B” drug discount program.

The Reverend Al Sharpton is bringing the drug discount reform efforts of the SCL Global Policy Initiative to his six-city “get out the vote” tour. [Here is the link](#) to the “Patients Over Profits” campaign flyer.

At the National Action Network conference earlier this year, Sharpton said, “When it came to me what was going on with a lot of hospitals and what was happening with putting profits over patients – to me, that’s a civil rights issue. That is why we got involved.”

Congress created the 340B program over thirty years ago. It requires big pharmaceutical companies to sell prescription medicines at a steep discount to charitable hospitals and pharmacies in low-income neighborhoods. The intent is for these hospitals and pharmacies to save money on drug purchases, freeing up resources that can be reinvested in healthy outcomes for these communities.

“The 340B program is not working as Congress intended,” said SCL Global Policy Initiative founder and executive director Kevin B. Kimble, Esq. “Instead of plowing the savings from the discounted drug purchases back into the community, we have ample evidence these hospitals and pharmacies are putting profits over people. That’s an egregious violation of basic health equity principles”



An increasingly common problem in the 340B program is that hospital networks will buy as many discounted medicines as possible and then turn around and sell them at a total price to patients in affluent neighborhoods, pocketing the difference and profiting contrary to Congressional intent. This was most famously exposed by the New York Times in a case involving the Bon Secours hospital network in Richmond, VA, and amplified by Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney.

“The Bon Secours situation in Richmond alerted the nation that poor neighborhoods were being used as profit-making machines by giant hospital conglomerates,” continued Kimble. “The next president, whether Kamala Harris or Donald Trump, needs to exercise much better governance to ensure 340B is working as intended. Congress also has an oversight role to play. SCL Global Initiative and our partners across the country stand ready to help make sure the 340B program is put back on track and that discounted drugs go to the patients who need them.”

About SCL-GPI

The Southern Christian Leadership Global Policy Initiative (SCL-GPI) is a leading voice in cutting-edge policy strategy and advocacy for underserved communities. Through education in target communities, SCL-GPI has proven how powerful grassroots civil rights advocacy can be.