

# The PUTTbulletin

## The Time for Incrementalism is Over. We're Calling for Aggressive PBM Reform NOW



The politics of pharmacy and PBM reform have reached an inflection point. The era of incrementalism, such as it existed, is over. We've demonstrated that we're hardworking team players, capable of being gracious and accepting when our part of PBM reform policy ends up on the cutting room floor because, well, "politics". We've seen the movie making its second, third or fifth run through the halls of Congress this year and we know how it ends.

So to you, to our fellow advocate pharmacy organizations, we are saying:

**The time is NOW. There will never be a better opportunity to swing out big for aggressive, meaningful PBM reform.**

If we're serious about reforming how PBMs engage with pharmacies we must ask for everything we need, and we must continue to ask and advocate for it until we get it, NO COMPROMISES.

As I write this letter, I see several areas of "no compromise" including:

- Full drug acquisition cost reimbursement, plus dispensing fee, plus a reasonable margin in all plans - regardless of private or publicly funded
- No PBM-owned pharmacies and no apologies for demanding this. PBMs should either be benefits managers or pharmacy owners but not both
- Patient choice of pharmacy at all times: no mandatory mail order, no steering to "preferred" pharmacies, no exclusions, no narrow networks
- Criminal penalties for PBM violations of the law

This is why the Pharmacists Fight Back Act and the Patients Before Monopolies Act matter and why **we must accept nothing less** than what they provide. These bills are the model for what we must ask for moving forward.

To be clear, we are not disparaging Representative Carter's 2025 "stand alone PBM bill" or other PBM reform bills that protect the interests of other members of the pharmaceutical supply chain.

Also to be clear, we understand there are dynamics, such as Congressional Budget Office scoring for costs and savings. But it is incumbent upon us to demonstrate how costs are an investment in the long-term savings the federal and state governments will realize if they protect pharmacies and actually stop the well-documented profiteering practices of the largest PBMs and their MCO parents.

This is no time to take an "oh gosh, we don't want to create 'pharmacy fatigue'" stance or whatever other seemingly rational, careful excuses we might tell ourselves. That ship has sailed anyway - if the "I'm so tired of hearing about PBM reform" comment made by a Senate Health staffer from the stage at ThoughtSpot 2025 is any indication.

With the Trump Administration unabashedly unafraid of taking big, bold risks, we MUST ask - clearly, directly, specifically, FULLY - for what we need to ensure every American has access to care. That or we might as well pack up our pharmacies now, because slowly but surely that future is coming for us whether we swing out big or not.

Let's not be the living example of insanity. Let's channel the spirit of our NARD forebears and once again be tough, proud, unembarrassed and unafraid to ask for ALL that we need, and keep asking until we get it. No compromises this time.

Yours in advocacy,

Monique Whitney, Executive Director

PUTT is the only 501c3 nonprofit 100% dedicated to fighting against PBM anticompetitive business practices on behalf of pharmacies and their patients.

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## Digging Deep

ICYMI



### The Shadow Groups Attempting to Stall PBM Reform

Whenever lawmakers begin discussing Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform, a familiar pattern emerges: new advocacy groups, often with vague or positive-sounding names, suddenly appear to shape the debate. Groups like "Conservatives for Lower Health Care Costs" and "Arkansas Families for Affordable Healthcare" have recently entered the conversation, raising questions about their origins and affiliations. These organizations frequently oppose PBM reform efforts, arguing that such policies would lead to higher drug costs and disrupt market-based solutions.

One of the defining characteristics of these organizations is the lack of transparency surrounding their funding. [Continue Reading](#)

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## Listening In

[The PUTTcast](#) and [PBM on the Rocks](#) will be back in August! In the meantime, check out these timely past episodes

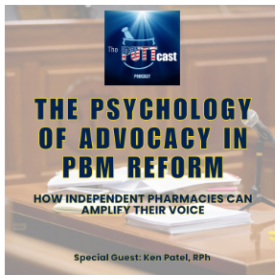


How can independent pharmacies tackle major challenges like reimbursement disparities, PBM legislative gaslighting, and advocating for fair policies in the healthcare industry? Join host Lord Dr. Jeremy, Alabama Independent Pharmacy Alliance's Trent McLemore, and the PUTT cocktail crew as they dive deep into the power of association and independent pharmacy unity and grassroots action as tools to amplify pharmacy and patient voices to get meaningful state legislation passed.

Scan the QR to catch all episodes of PBM on the Rocks



[LISTEN NOW](#)



At its core, PBM reform is not just a critical pharmacy issue - it's a patient care issue. Join PUTTcast host Lauren Young and special guest Ken Patel for this insightful episode as they explore how independent pharmacies can use psychology, AI, and community-building strategies to craft testimony, fight misleading PBM narratives, and create a united voice for reform.

Scan the QR to catch all episodes of the PUTTcast



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## Around PUTT

Mark Your Calendars!



## Getting LOUD



Our goal is 10,000 signatures by October 1st, so we're working hard to get the word out to every state about the need to [Audit TRICARE](#). Your state's pharmacies can help!

To ensure we involve and educate every patient, PUTT has developed printable flyers, bagstuffers, and hardcopy petitions to use in your pharmacy.

[Contact us today](#) for your state's pharmacy packet. Let's Do This!

Scan the QR to contact PUTT:



## News You Can SHARE

[How PBMs can use private-labelled drug products as a great escape from anti-steering policies](#) | 46 Brooklyn Research

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[PBM markets lack competition, new paper finds](#) | Healthcare Dive

[DOJ and FTC Host Second Session on Structural and Regulatory Impediments to Drug Competition](#) | The National Law Review

*(To watch the video of the July 24th FTC DOJ Listening Session click here)*

[How Drug Prices Got So Bloated](#) | Health Care un-covered

[Pharmacy Access Determined by Drive Time Underestimates Inequality](#) | Drug Topics

[Health Insurers Are Denying More Drug Claims, Data Shows](#) | The New York Times

[Put patients ahead of profiteers in rigged pharmaceuticals market](#) | Savannah Now