

The PUTTbulletin



5 Reasons You Should Join PUTT at the May 17th Express Scripts Protest in St. Louis

In less than 3 weeks, independent pharmacy owners, patient groups and fellow medical providers from across the U.S. will join together for a historic protest of Express Scripts on the public sidewalk at 1 Express Scripts Way, across the street from Express Scripts headquarters in downtown St. Louis, MO.

Loretta Boesing, founder of Unite for Safe Medications and a friend and advocate for independent pharmacies, is organizing the protest with help from PUTT. Many pharmacy and patient organizations are expressing their support for the event by sending representatives to attend and speak at the protest.

If you're undecided about whether or not to attend, let us give you 5 reasons why you should register NOW and book your travel to be at this historic event on Friday, May 17th:

Reason 1: Express Scripts exploits its market advantage in every conceivable way to maintain its profit motives, rapidly diminishing public trust by limiting patient access to care in the name of "cost savings"; reducing provider rights to fair and reasonable reimbursement; playing fast and loose with payer expectations; and using its sheer size to keep smaller pharmacy benefits competitors at bay. Protest against their anticompetitive practices!

Reason 2: Legislation and litigation alone will not stop the abuse, the market plays a role too. Currently healthcare benefits buyers operate in a condition of information asymmetry, meaning they don't have access to the complete set of facts about their benefits contracts because PBMs and their MCO parents/affiliates can plead "proprietary" and "trade secret" information. Publicly protesting this practice, and being there as we share this information with mainstream and business media alerts the market that PBM reform is critical to protecting patient access to care and cutting bloated healthcare costs.

Reason 3: The right to peaceably protest is protected by the First Amendment and is one of the few rights of free speech Express Scripts' contracts cannot take away from you. When we gather on May 17th, we will do so with respect, professionalism and full-throated opposition to ESI's pharmacy benefits policies, which disrupt patient care and create an anticompetitive environment for independent pharmacies.

Reason 4: The facts are on our side. PUTT was founded by independent pharmacy owners who saw the PBM writing on the wall, and our members regularly contribute information and evidence of PBM profiteering practices. We'll be there, facts in hand, with fellow pharmacy advocacy organizations to speak out against unfair trade practices and present primary evidence to make the case for PBM reform NOW.

Reason 5: YOU being there communicates directly to ESI - and to the other "Big 3" PBMs who will surely see similar protests on their doorstep in the future - that community pharmacies take an active role in protecting our patients, our communities and our profession from Fortune 15 charlatans whose primary allegiance is to shareholder profit over patient care.

You can find the protest details and a link to securely register to attend at TruthRx.org/protest-information. While there's no cost to attend the protest, registering allows us to communicate with attendees ahead of and during the event. (And though it goes without saying, PUTT will never sell, share or otherwise disclose information related to event attendees).

Bring your white coats, your protest signs and most importantly your willingness to stand up for your rights as a small business owner and care provider. Together we can show Express Scripts that when it comes to being allowed to provide patient care under fair and reasonable contract terms, independent pharmacies mean business!

PUTT is the **only** 501c3 **nonprofit** pharmacy organization **100%** dedicated to **PBM Reform**.

INVEST IN ADVOCACY

DONATE NOW

IN THE HOT SEAT



Hacking America's Health Care: Assessing the Change Healthcare Cyber Attack and What's Next

Wednesday, May 1st at 9:00 AM ET

WATCH LIVE



Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Hearing: "Examining the Change Healthcare Cyberattack"

Wednesday, May 1st at 2:00 PM ET

WATCH LIVE

LISTENING IN

2 Patient Advocates + 1 PUTTcast Host = Awesome Advocacy Information



Listen in as Monique Whitney is joined by patient advocacy powerhouses Beth Waldron and Loretta Boesing for a discussion on medication access issues, formularies, and even the pharmacy business model - Public pressure for PBM reform can only increase when these advocates get their say!

LISTEN NOW



Just Say NO (to Greedy Broker Control of Your Medicare Plans)



Independent pharmacies are being put through the wringer, especially with Medicare - but what if they could take back their power?

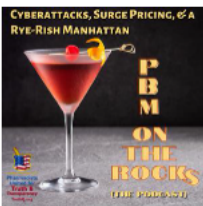
Listen in as Monique Whitney hosts an enlightening discussion with PUTT Board President Deborah Keaveny & the founder of WayPointRx's Pharmacy Insurance Group Ben Coakley on why and how pharmacies can (and should!) get paid to do what they're already doing - counseling Medicare patients. The difference? As an agent for their patients' health insurance!

LISTEN NOW



EAR CANDY

Rage Against The (PBM) Machine



What happens when the PUTT cocktail crew, The Accidental Pharmacist & The Angry Pharmacist get together over drinks?

There's no holds barred on what might be said! From the patient travesties inflicted by the Change Healthcare cyberattack, to independent pharmacy future viability, pharmacy unions, and PBM parallels on Wendy's surge pricing - it's a podcast episode you don't want to miss!

LISTEN NOW



April is Stress Awareness Month. Are you aware of how much stress PBMs cause?

Listen in as the PUTT Cocktail Crew hosts WayPoint Rx's Ben Coakley and California pharmacy owner Sona Kazangian. From pharmacy benefits plan options, to reimbursement issues - the gloves come off when the subject of PBMs is on the table!

LISTEN NOW



Corporate Transparency Act Requirements: FinCEN Reporting

Reporting requirements of the Corporate Transparency Act of 2021 (CTA) went into effect January 1, 2024. Under the new CTA requirements, independent pharmacies will need to file a Beneficial Ownership Information report with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) before January 1, 2025. Any new independent pharmacies registered with their Secretary of State after January 1, 2024, have 90 days from their date of registration to file.

Filing with FinCEN is a one-time requirement. Pharmacies are only required to re-file if an update of ownership or business location(s) information is needed.

For answers to frequently asked questions regarding FinCEN beneficial ownership reporting requirements, go to https://www.fincen.gov/boi-faqs#B_2.

Cashing In: Does Your Pharmacy Have Unclaimed Property?

For pharmacies, unclaimed property generally falls into two categories: tangible and intangible. Tangible property includes things like uncollected medications and durable medical equipment. Intangible property may involve unclaimed reimbursements or prescription overpayments.

Does your pharmacy have unclaimed property? A Quick way to find out is to check the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA). NAUPA is a useful national database that includes each state's official unclaimed property website. Wider multi-state searches can be conducted using their multi-state search resource MissingMoney.com.

Official federal and state-run unclaimed property websites are free to search and file claims. If you're short on time (and patience!) you can hire a third-party organization (called property finders) to assist in locating your pharmacy's potentially unclaimed funds or property. Every state has different laws regarding the registration and licensure of third-party property finder organizations, so before hiring one be sure to check that state's registration division to ensure they're legit.

What Relief Does \$100 Buy?

- Temporary Feel Good Relief**
date night at a mid-range restaurant (before tip)
- Temporary Forget Your Troubles Relief**
30 minutes of fun in Las Vegas (because the house always wins)
- Long Lasting Relief**
monthly funding for PUTT's PBM reform initiatives

Just \$100 a month makes a difference in funding PUTT's push for real PBM reform & enforcement (AND you get a tax deduction!)

Invest in Advocacy [TruthRx.org/donate](https://truthrx.org/donate)

MAKE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION NOW!

STATE BY STATE



Indiana AG Todd Rokita files lawsuit against drug companies, PBMs over inflated insulin prices

READ ABOUT IT



Pharmacists push for legislation reigning in pharmacy benefit managers in Illinois

READ ABOUT IT



Bill designed to head off pharmacy deserts in Ohio rolled out by lawmakers



Tennessee bill would require pharmacies to notify customers of lowest prescription costs

READ ABOUT IT



Amendments establishing single Va. Medicaid pharmacy benefits manager die in conference

READ ABOUT IT



THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO "HMMMM"

CVS Health is Searching for a New Lead Director of Public Policy



the most qualified individual for a job with CVS Health would be....?

(Experience in the vampire arts is a plus)

Apply Today!

The ideal candidate must be well-versed in a wide variety of unethical business practices including but not limited to:

- Identification of key policy issues and debates facing CVS Health's Medicare Part D and other PBM business (ability to write bribery checks & blind policymakers with shiny objects)
- Summarization and synthesis of business implications of legislative and regulatory proposals, communication to business leaders, and take action to influence developments consistent with CVS Health's overall policy perspective. (ability to find all loopholes & exploit them for the benefit of shareholders)

SPEAKING OUT

Our partners at the [PBM Accountability Project](#) put together a one-pager of what stakeholders are really saying about PBMs.

To view and download the full document, [click here](#)



"High-priority legislation should encompass concrete measures, including the separation of PBMs' compensation from medication prices. Failing to do so will perpetuate the upward trajectory of prices in lockstep with PBM profits, further empowering these players to eliminate competition and burden consumers with escalating costs."

Consumer Action for a Strong Economy to House Committee on Oversight and Accountability



"Without delinking PBM compensation from drug list prices, bad actors will continue to pressure drug manufacturers to drive list prices higher while demanding steeper rebates. This harms consumers and other purchasers, including the government."

Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease Comments to Senate Budget health care task force



"There is a growing and unprecedented consensus among both Democrats and Republicans in Congress that PBMs should not be profiting off the price of prescription medicines or forcing patients to use more expensive drugs when lower cost alternatives are available. Breaking the link between the price of medicines in Medicare and PBM revenues is a critical provision in any PBM reform legislation to help seniors afford and access their medications."



MARK BLUM, managing director of the PBM Accountability Project

NEWS & ARTICLES



A Doctor at Cigna Said Her Bosses Pressured Her to Review Patients' Cases Too Quickly. Cigna Threatened to Fire Her.

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Whistleblower Releases Audio, Files Complaint: Cites Medical Billing Plot at Optum

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Now Is the Time to Break the Link Tying PBM Profits to Rising Drug Prices

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1 big thing: Nearing too big to fail

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Amid increased federal scrutiny, PBMs pivot strategy to further squeeze independent pharmacies

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