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December 14, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for S. 127, the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act of 2023

Dear Senators Cantwell and Grassley:

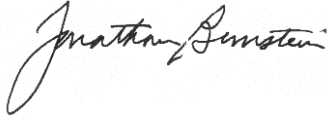
I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) to express support for **S. 127, the *Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Transparency Act***. We appreciate that your legislation seeks to increase transparency to the drug supply system by holding PBMs accountable for deceptive practices that lead to increased costs for patients at the pharmacy counter.

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 7,000 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

The business practices of PBMs affect AAAAI members and the patients we treat through opaque and often nonsensical formularies and utilization management strategies. The current system has resulted in delayed or denied treatment for necessary medical care, with patients oftentimes being driven to the most expensive treatment options. These delays have proven to be especially problematic in requiring non-medical switching or in gaining approval of complex biologics, like immunoglobulin replacement therapy, for fragile immunodeficiency patients—putting patients at increased health risks. Further, due to regular formulary design changes favoring PBM profits, patients with severe asthma have experienced hurdles in trying new treatment options or needing additional approvals of existing treatments. Your legislation would help patients by prohibiting PBMs from engaging in deceptive practices by requiring PBMs to report to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on a regular basis about payments charged and received and by allowing the FTC and state attorneys general to enforce these new regulations.

Thank you for your commitment to improve the drug pricing system for patients. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you and your staff as issues related to allergy, asthma, and immunology arise, and would encourage you to contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or sheitzig@aaaai.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Bernstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Jonathan A. Bernstein, MD FAAAAI
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology