



COALITION AGAINST SOCIALIZED MEDICINE

a Project of THE CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ACTION COALITION

April 16, 2026

Via Electronic Delivery

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
The Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions:

The Coalition Against Socialized Medicine (CASM) applauds the Committee for holding today's hearing, "Making Medicines More Affordable: How Competition Can Lower Drug Prices," and addressing healthcare affordability head-on.

But as insurer consolidation tightens its grip on the prescription drug market, competition is being squeezed out—leaving patients to shoulder ever-increasing deductibles, premiums, and copays.

Large insurers, through vertical and horizontal integration, now dominate the prescription drug market. In fact, the [10 largest companies](#) control the vast majority of the national landscape, with a single corporation often dominating each state. This concentration prevents independent and local pharmacies from entering the market and keeps prices high, ultimately limiting patient access to innovative, cutting-edge treatments.

Compounding the problem are pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)—middlemen that too often prevent negotiated discounts and rebates from reaching patients. Just three control [roughly 80%](#) of the prescription drug market, reinforcing a highly concentrated system that drives up costs, limits transparency, and functions as a healthcare oligopoly—one sustained through their alignment with Democrats. However, with the passage of the [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#), meaningful PBM reform is finally within reach.

In addition to holding insurers and PBMs accountable, lawmakers must also safeguard intellectual property (IP) to preserve both affordability and innovation. Strong IP protections help developers bring new breakthroughs to market with confidence that their work will be protected. Without these

safeguards, the incentive to invest time, money, and resources in cutting-edge treatments diminishes—slowing innovation and limiting future patient access.

To truly lower costs and curb waste, fraud, and abuse in our healthcare system, we strongly urge the Committee to hold insurers and PBMs accountable while protecting the incentives that drive innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew M. Langer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Andrew Langer
Executive Director
Coalition Against Socialized Medicine (CASM)