

GOVERNOR NEWSOM BLOCKS CRITICAL PBM REFORM FOR PATIENTS

Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) will continue to drive up medication costs while limiting access to essential care, thanks to the veto of SB 966 by Governor Gavin Newsom. *Hear from health care leaders on how this decision harms patients.*

“PBMs are driving up health care costs, destroying neighborhood pharmacies, and preventing Californians from receiving health care at their local pharmacies. [Governor Newsom’s] veto is a huge missed opportunity to control prescription drug costs and protect consumers from predatory behavior by PBMs.”

Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), Author of SB 966

“This bill was our top priority, as patients are regularly harmed by the State’s lack of oversight of PBMs. We are disappointed that the bill was vetoed, **representing a victory for predatory middlemen and corporate profits.**”

Liz Helms, California Chronic Care Coalition

“We are incredibly disappointed that the Governor chose to veto this vital piece of legislation. This bill enjoyed significant bipartisan support and was championed by healthcare providers and patient advocates... **Community pharmacies and patients will continue to suffer at the hands of PBMs unless Congress acts.**”

Melissa Kimura, PharmD, California Pharmacists Association

“This bill would have helped to tackle the rising costs of prescription drugs through pro-consumer requirements and regulations of PBMs... **We are committed to supporting further efforts that regulate the fees and added costs passed on to consumers and patients.**”

Tyler TerMeer, PhD, San Francisco AIDS Foundation

“This outcome perpetuates the barriers to necessary care, exacerbating inequities—and leaving our community vulnerable to additional harm. **We have to put a stop to profits over the lives of people, particularly those in marginalized communities.**”

Terra Russell-Slavin, Los Angeles LGBT Center