The Honorable U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

November 18, 2025

Dear Senator,

On behalf of thousands of Massachusetts patients, their families, pharmacists, researchers, businesses, and healthcare professionals, we respectfully urge your support for bipartisan legislation that would protect patients nationwide by strengthening accountability in Medicare Advantage and passing long-overdue Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reforms.

Massachusetts is a hub of innovation and often at the forefront of the latest medical breakthroughs. Steps must be taken to eliminate the red tape that may hinder patients' access to these lifesaving treatments and cures. Some of the primary obstacles patients and providers face are caused by opaque PBM business practices that raise patient costs, restrict formularies, and put community pharmacies out of business. The current system creates financial incentives for PBMs to drive up list prices and retain the rebates they negotiate from manufacturers rather than share the savings with patients.

Last year, we saw Congress nearly reach the finish line of passing meaningful PBM reforms. Since then, there has been increased bipartisan support for measures that would rein in these middlemen and return savings to Massachusetts patients. The PBM Reform Act of 2025, H.R. 4317, would ban spread pricing in Medicaid and ensure that pharmacies are fairly reimbursed, delink PBM profits from the list prices of drugs in Medicare, and increase transparency and accountability for PBMs. The bill will protect strong patient-provider relationships, lower out-of-pocket costs, and preserve access to care. These policies will also improve medication adherence. In fact, this bill contains many of the provisions that nearly passed as part of last year's bipartisan end-of-year spending package.

It's important to note that many of these abuses are present within the insurance industry, in addition to among PBMs. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently documented widespread wasteful spending across the insurance marketplace, identifying hundreds of billions of dollars in potential savings. The trend of upcoding in Medicare Advantage is an issue that inflates Medicare costs by tens of billions of dollars annually, diverting funding away from patient care toward increased profits for insurers. While Medicare plans reimburse providers for the cost of treatments provided, Medicare Advantage plans are paid a rate based on an individual patient's health. This practice incentivizes Medicare Advantage plans to overreport the health status of beneficiaries to receive higher reimbursement.

The bipartisan No UPCODE Act would take steps to reduce overpayments for care by limiting the ability to use old or unrelated medical conditions when setting costs, ensuring Medicare is only charged for treatments related to relevant medical conditions. The CBO indicated that addressing upcoding could save $124B over ten years.

As insurance companies and PBMs continue to consolidate control of the healthcare industry, restrictive formularies and prior authorization barriers are becoming more prevalent, raising costs and delaying access to care. While these Fortune 500 companies are generating record profits, we respectfully ask that you consider cosponsoring policies like the No UPCODE Act

and the PBM Reform Act of 2025 that restore the fairness and transparency that Massachusetts patients deserve.

Sincerely,

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England (AAFA NE)

Brain Aneurysm Foundation

Cambridge Chamber of Commerce

Envisioning Access

Epilepsy Foundation New England

Global Healthy Living Foundation

HeartBrothers Foundation

IMPACT Melanoma

Infusion Access Foundation

Lupus Foundation of New England

Massachusetts Chain Pharmacy Council

Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association

Massachusetts Pain Initiative

Massachusetts Pharmacists Association (MPhA)

National Infusion Center Association

New England Hemophilia Association

New England Rural Health Association

PILMA

Rare New England