

# PATIENTS RISING NOW

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2024

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Patients Rising Now, a national grassroots organization representing millions of Americans facing chronic and debilitating illnesses. Our mission is to ensure that every patient has access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, and we believe that achieving this goal requires urgent action from Congress on patient-inspired policy reforms.

We believe there is an urgent need to pass some important legislation that will require the federal government to value the life of every American patient and to also reign in the expanding power of health insurers and their pharmacy benefit managers so that patients and physicians can once again be the decision makers in healthcare.

**Specifically, we call for the swift passage of the following bills:**

- **Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act of 2023 (H.R. 485):** This bill safeguards the rights of Americans with disabilities by prohibiting in discriminatory practices based on adjusted-life-year metrics.
- **Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (H.R. 5378):** This bill seeks to make healthcare more affordable and understandable by requiring price disclosure for hospitals, labs, and imaging centers, reforming pharmacy benefit manager practices, and investing in primary care while ensuring equal Medicare payments and greater transparency in hospital costs.
- **Delinking Revenue from Unfair Gouging Act (H.R. 6283):** Insurance should shield patients from financial hardship. This bipartisan legislation is a crucial step towards dismantling the control of health insurers and PBMs over our healthcare system and a first step towards empowering patients.

- **Protecting Patients Against PBM Abuses Act (H.R. 2880):** This bill protects patients from unfair practices by decoupling PBM compensation from drug prices and preventing steering towards specific medications based on financial incentives.
- **Drug Price Transparency in Medicaid Act (H.R. 1613):** This bill promotes transparency by requiring pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to adopt a pass-through pricing model for Medicaid, enabling patients to benefit from lower drug costs.
- **PBM Sunshine and Accountability Act (H.R. 2816):** This bill increases accountability by mandating stricter reporting requirements for PBMs, shedding light on their financial practices and ensuring transparency in drug pricing.
- **Help Ensure Lower Patient Copays Act (H.R. 830):** This bill reduces the financial burden on patients by requiring health insurance plans to apply third-party payments, financial assistance, and discounts towards deductibles and other cost-sharing requirements.

The healthcare system in the United States, despite its undeniable advantages, faces significant challenges. We firmly believe that the core purpose of health insurance should be to **shield patients from financial hardship**, allowing them to focus on their health and well-being, not the fear of medical bills. Additionally, we must harness the **power of scientific and technological advancements** to deliver effective treatments and cures for even the most devastating illnesses. Ultimately, **rising patient satisfaction** should be the guiding principle for any legislative action in healthcare.

By passing these vital pieces of legislation, the House can take a concrete step towards a healthcare system that prioritizes patient well-being, affordability, and transparency. As representatives of the patients themselves, we urge you to act swiftly and decisively on the Must Pass for Patients List. We cannot afford to delay action on these essential reforms.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you to build a better healthcare system for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Terry Wilcox  
CEO  
Patients Rising Now