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February 6, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell and Senator Grassley,

The Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) applauds your bipartisan commitment to quality patient care and lowering the costs of prescription drugs. We are pleased to endorse the *Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act of 2023*.

ASCO represents nearly 45,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. ASCO works to ensure that all individuals with cancer have access to high quality, equitable care; that cancer delivery systems support optimal cancer care; and that our nation supports robust federal funding for research on the prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

The *Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act of 2023* would provide transparency and hold pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) accountable for unfair and deceptive practices that may lead to an increase in prescription drug prices for patients with cancer.

Cancer drugs are a critical component of treatment for many cancer types as well as for the prevention and control of symptoms. They also represent an increasing component of cancer care costs. While PBMs were originally created to serve as third-party administrators of pharmacy claims, they now leverage their market power to obtain lower prices on drugs, often without passing those savings along to patients.

Further, ASCO members have reported that some patients have had their medication or dosage changed by PBMs without prior approval by or in consultation with the treating physician. PBMs are also increasingly shifting drug dispensing away from physicians and toward pharmacies they own, which can negatively impact patient access to treatment. In these ways, PBMs are interfering with the doctor-patient relationship and lowering the quality of care for people with cancer.

ASCO supports efforts to shed light on PBM practices and prohibit unfair or deceptive practices that impact patients with cancer. For a more detailed understanding of our policy on this issue, we invite you to read the [ASCO Policy Brief: Pharmacy Benefit Managers](#) by our affiliate, the American Society of Clinical Oncology. We are committed to working with you as the legislation advances. If you have any questions, please contact Kristine Rufener, Director of Congressional Affairs, at Kristine.Rufener@asco.org or 571-483-1547.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lori J. Pierce MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lori J. Pierce, MD, FASTRO, FASCO
Chair of the Board