

S 882

Patients Before Middlemen Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 6, 2025

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Mar 6, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/882>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]

Party: Republican • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 6, 2025
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Mar 6, 2025
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		Mar 6, 2025
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 6, 2025
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 6, 2025
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Mar 10, 2025
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 10, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 6, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 7148	Related bill	Feb 3, 2026: Became Public Law No: 119-75.
119 S 891	Related bill	Mar 6, 2025: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
119 HR 1768	Related bill	Mar 3, 2025: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Budget, the Judiciary, and Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Patients Before Middlemen Act

This bill establishes certain standards and reporting requirements for prescription drug plan (PDP) sponsors, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), and pharmacies under the Medicare prescription drug benefit and Medicare Advantage.

Specifically, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) must develop reasonable and relevant standards for contracts between PDP sponsors and pharmacies. The CMS must seek input from interested stakeholders when developing these standards. PDP sponsors are subject to civil penalties for violating these standards; PBMs must reimburse PDP sponsors for civil penalties that result from their responsibilities.

The bill also requires the CMS to report periodically on essential retail pharmacies (i.e., pharmacies that serve as the only pharmacy within a certain radius) with respect to costs, contracts, and other specified information, particularly in relation to other types of pharmacies.

Additionally, PBMs may not receive any income other than flat, bona fide service fees. PBMs must turn over any excess amounts they receive to PDP sponsors; PDP sponsors must turn over these amounts to the CMS. In addition, PBMs must report to PDP sponsors and to the CMS an itemized list of prescription drugs that were dispensed during the previous year and related data about costs, claims, affiliated pharmacies, and other specified information. PDP sponsors may audit PBMs to ensure compliance with these requirements and must annually certify their compliance; PBMs are responsible for any associated civil penalties for violations.

The bill's changes generally apply beginning in 2028.

