



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 784		DATE: 2/18/2025	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA M BROOKS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: abrooks@fourrivers.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 2:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairperson and Members of the Committee, I regret that I am unable to attend in person today due to road conditions, but I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB 784. As the Director of Pharmacy Services at Four Rivers Community Health Center, I have seen firsthand the impact that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) have on safety-net providers and the patients we serve. Their unchecked practices threaten our patients we care for and continue to be a concern for the viability of retail pharmacies across the state. Please consider putting measures in place to continue to protect the 340B program, that helps our patients daily obtain affordable medications even when patients' PBMs do not. Recently, we opened an in-house pharmacy to better serve our patients. This process required the review of an overwhelming number of PBM contracts—contracts that were not open to negotiation. These agreements are presented as forced sign-or-no-contract terms, meaning that if we refused to sign, we would lose access to the ability to serve a significant portion of our patient population. Some PBMs control such a large share of the market that rejecting their terms would mean losing access to care for nearly one-third of our patients. This lack of transparency and flexibility leaves community health centers and their community contract pharmacies with no choice but to accept reimbursement terms that may not cover the cost of dispensing, further straining our ability to continue operating sustainably. 340B medications are known for a deep discount, and PBMs are trying to target these medications or entities that fill them to offer a lower reimbursement, which totally negates the intent of the program. Beyond contract coercion, PBMs are actively reducing reimbursements for prescriptions dispensed at retail pharmacy locations across the state, using 340B pricing would be just another opportunity to cut the financial benefits that health centers rely on to provide care to vulnerable populations. Additionally, I have witnessed PBMs letters sent a few years ago, requiring our contract pharmacy to report all 340B claims, threatening a "breach of contract" if they did not do so. Contract pharmacies do not have a way to identify and submit this information to the PBM when adjudicating a claim, as this information is determined by the health center. These unrealistic demands are just preliminary requests at next attempts to cut reimbursement of these identified claims. These tactics not only interfere with patient care but also violate the fundamental purpose of the 340B Program, which was created to support healthcare providers in reinvesting savings into expanded patient services—not to pad the profits of PBMs. HB 784 is essential to level the playing field and protect Missouri's safety-net providers from abusive PBM practices. By prohibiting PBMs from imposing unfair contract terms and discriminatory reimbursement rates, this legislation will help ensure that health centers like Four Rivers Community Health Center can continue delivering accessible, high-quality care to those who need it most. I strongly urge the committee to pass HB 784 to uphold the integrity of the 340B Program and safeguard the health of Missouri's underserved communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: HEIDI N. LUCAS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-2740	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 232			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: HLucas@morha.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 4:58 PM

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The Missouri Rural Health Association supports this legislation. As rural hospitals, FQHCs, and rural clinics continue to face numerous challenges—from rising medical costs and ongoing workforce shortages to increased demand and rising administrative burdens—the 340B program plays a vital role in connecting patients to the care they need when they need it.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-4239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E CAPITOL AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN ALFERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 636-667-1093	
REPRESENTING: SSM HEALTH		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 12800 CORPORATE HILL			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63131
EMAIL: Justin.Alferman@ssmhealth.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 3:12 PM
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SSM Health is in support of legislation that strengthens and continues the 340b program.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN R WHITE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-663-2313	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI HIGHLANDS HEALTH CARE		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 157			
CITY: ELLINGTON, MISSOURI		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63638
EMAIL: kwhite@mohigh.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 4:06 PM	

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Missouri Highlands Health Care, a rural Federally Qualified Health Center serving 7 Southern Missouri counties, Butler, Carter, Iron, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon and Wayne, supports House Bill 784. The 340B Drug Program provides covered entities such as ours, program savings which is reinvested into our rural communities. Patients would go without needed primary medical, mental and oral health care services, maternal health care, pediatric care and substance use disorder treatment. We serve over 25,000 patients annually in over 20 clinic locations and rely on the savings from the 340B program to reach the most vulnerable citizens of Missouri. Our services keep patients out of the ER, help to avoid of costly hospitalizations, and address issues that exist in patients' lives which prevents them from attaining good health on their own. As PBM's have carved out more and more of the dollars intended for covered entities such as ours, we have had to reduce workforce, outreach and care in the very areas that are already short on health care professionals and clinics. I urge you to support HB 784 and restore the savings to the covered entities as it was intended.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE REICHARD EIKEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-7447	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: HAMPTON WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-793-0673	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 220 W. HIGH STREET, SUITE B			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHI HARNESS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-5200	
REPRESENTING: SAINT LUKE's HEALTH SYSTEM		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 122 E. HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: kathi@kathiharness.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 10:42 AM

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St. Luke's Health System opposes HB 784 as it excludes hospitals from the 340B provisions.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LAUREL PICKERING		PHONE NUMBER: 314-721-7800	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS AREA BUSINESS HEALTH COALITION		TITLE: PRESIDENT & CEO	
ADDRESS: 8888 LADUE RD, SUITE 250			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63124
EMAIL: bkonkel@stlbhc.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 7:59 PM

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Dear Members of the House Health and Mental Health Committee: Thank you for this opportunity to voice our strong opposition to HB 784. The St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition (BHC) is a non-profit organization that has represented the region's employers on issues of health care for over 40 years. The BHC membership consists of nearly 70 large employers, representing 500,000 covered lives in Missouri, or nearly 10% of the state's population. While we appreciate the intent of this bill, if passed, it will burden employers and Missouri workers with even higher health care costs. Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act allows health care organizations providing care for large numbers of uninsured and low-income patients to obtain drugs at deeply discounted prices. Designed to support hospitals that serve high volumes of safety net patients, "340B" status has grown to include many hospitals and contracted pharmacies without a predominant safety net population. In fact, many contracted pharmacies serve large numbers of commercially insured patients, and often, claims coming from these pharmacies are for a commercially insured individual. Due to the steep discount required through the 340B pricing program, pharmacy manufacturers do not offer rebates on a "340B claim." Employers contractually obligate their Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) to discern whether a prescription filled from a contracted pharmacy is an eligible "340B claim" or not. The provisions being considered in this bill would limit a PBM's ability to refute "340B claims" to obtain and collect rebates on behalf of a health plan. HB 784 would allow 340B covered entities to profit immensely off the backs of Missouri workers by charging self-insured employers full price while diminishing rebate opportunities, putting employers and their employees at risk of even higher spend for brand drugs. These acts are unsustainable for employers, plan members, and their families. For these reasons, the employer members of the St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition urge you to oppose the passage of HB 784. By propelling the opportunity for abuses of the 340B program, this legislation will result in unfavorable cost increases for Missouri businesses, workers, and families. With appreciation, Laurel Pickering President & CEO



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROB MONSEES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-999-9652	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 60			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: AMERICA's HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:00 AM	

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