



January 21, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the National Organization of Rheumatology Management (NORM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for the **current PBM reform provisions** within the **Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026**, which will remove the underlying perverse incentives for PBMs within the Medicare Part D prescription drug program and commercial health plan market.

NORM promotes education, expertise and advocacy for rheumatology managers and their practices. The Organization's members manage the day-to-day operations of rheumatology practices and have firsthand experience navigating regulatory obstacles facing successful healthcare practices and supporting the financial sustainability of rheumatology practices. NORM provides value across the nation by cultivating a thriving community of rheumatology managers and physicians who are focused on supporting our patients and pursuing excellence in medical practice management.

On a daily basis, rheumatology practice managers experience firsthand the devastating effects on patients of aggressive pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) practices, including utilization management. For the average practice manager, a large portion of every day is devoted to helping patients access the medications prescribed by their health care providers. Although this work is created by the insurers and PBMs, it is not reimbursed by them, so staff time and resources spent on ever-increasing administrative requirements must be absorbed by the practice. As for our patients, the time they spend navigating insurance and PBM requirements amounts to a full-time job for some. Excessive administrative requirements would be tolerable if they resulted in streamlined access to drugs or lower out-of-pocket costs. However, our current system results in neither.

It is imperative that Congress enact reforms that would prohibit some of the most egregious PBM behaviors in Medicare and commercial health plans. Specifically, NORM supports the PBM reform provisions within the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026 because they break the existing tie between PBM compensation and drug prices. PBMs should not be allowed to maximize their income through selection of medications with higher list prices. This is an underlying perverse incentive driving high out-of-pocket costs for patients.

PBM reform will lower out-of-pocket costs and increase access to medication for patients, especially those with chronic disease. On behalf of rheumatology managers and their practices, we thank you for consideration and urge you to advance the current PBM reform provisions within the Consolidated

Appropriations Act of 2026. Should you have any questions or would like to set a time to discuss our comments in more detail, please contact Andrea Zlatkus, CPM, CRMS, CRHC, Executive Director of NORM, at [andrea@normgroup.org](mailto:andrea@normgroup.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle A. Owen", followed by a long, horizontal, sweeping flourish.

Michelle A. Owen, CPC  
President, NORM