



February 13, 2025

To Chair Collin Duel, Vice Chair Bob Culver, and the Members of the House Committee on Civil Judiciary:

Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE) writes today to represent the interests of millions of American consumers before your committee to express our strongest opposition to Oklahoma [House Bill 2048](#). This legislation would require pharmaceutical manufacturers to distribute 340B eligible drugs to all contract pharmacies, irresponsibly expanding a program that is already in dire need of reform.

The 340B program was originally designed to help hospitals and medical facilities provide rural, low-income, and underserved patients with discounted prescriptions. However, this wasteful program remains unchecked, with lax federal guidance allowing hospitals to exploit discounts while charging patients significantly higher prices.

Expanding the program through HB 2048 would only worsen these issues and benefit the largest pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Over [50 percent](#) of 340B contract pharmacies are already associated with PBMs through vertical integration. These middlemen are notorious for manipulating drug pricing to maximize profits at consumers' expense. Independent pharmacies, which are crucial for underserved communities, will be further squeezed out, reducing patient access to affordable care.

Additionally, the 340B program is a federal initiative to be solely governed by federal law. States lack the authority to make changes to the program such as those being considered by HB 2048. Similar legislation has faced legal challenges in other states and some courts have [already found](#) that manufacturers are not required under existing federal law to supply discounted drugs to an unlimited number of contract pharmacies. This further highlights the flaws within HB 2048.

Ultimately, this legislation will expand a deeply flawed program that benefits corporate interests over patients. While well-intended in theory, this bill will allow for further fraud and abuse while enriching hospitals and PBMs at taxpayers' expense. CASE urges the Oklahoma legislature to reject HB 2048 and stop the expansion of this broken system.

Sincerely,

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