



PATIENTS NOT PBMS ADVOCACY CHECK-LIST

- Call 1-800-372-7181 and tell your legislators to support SB 27 and SB 188. ☐
- Customize the KPCA press release to include your quotes and contact information. ☐
- Send the press release to your local news outlets and invite them to your health center to do an interview about SB 27 & SB 188. ☐
- Use Social Media Calendar to build awareness and support with online community, staff, and Board. Use the hashtags and tag your legislators. ☐
- Share the Bill Summary handout and quarter-sheets with staff, patients, Board members and other stakeholders. ☐

TOOLKIT

MEDIA OUTREACH

- Press Release
- Talking Points

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Social Media Calendar with Graphics

STAFF, PATIENTS AND BOARD OUTREACH

- Bill Summary Handout
- Quarter-Sheet Handouts

INSERT CHC LOGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kentucky Calls to Action: Support Essential Bills for Affordable Healthcare Legislation Aims to Maintain Access to Essential Medications for Kentucky's Most Vulnerable

Frankfort, KY – March 12, 2024 – Across Kentucky, healthcare leaders and pharmacists urge support for Senate Bill 27 and Senate Bill 188, critical in safeguarding affordable medications for over 600,000 low-income and vulnerable Kentuckians, who rely on Community Health Centers (CHCs). These centers are lifelines in our communities, providing necessary care regardless of one's ability to pay. The proposed bills challenge the rising control of Big Pharma and ensure that lifesaving drugs remain accessible and affordable.

[Insert Quote from Healthcare Professional or Local Resident]

In 2022, 29 community health center organizations extended essential healthcare services, leveraging the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to stretch federal resources, ensuring low-income patients can receive comprehensive services without additional burden on taxpayers. The 340B program enables these centers to offer discounted medicines, crucial for treating conditions like diabetes, asthma, and heart disease. Without this program, critical medications would be unaffordable for more than 80% of CHC patients in Kentucky.

Senate Bill 27 seeks to remove barriers, ensuring Kentuckians can access prescriptions affordably and conveniently, counteracting Big Pharma's restrictive practices. Senate Bill 188 promotes fairness by preventing preferred pharmacy networks from limiting patient choice and ensuring fair compensation for all pharmacies.

[Insert Quote from a Rural CHC Leader or Patient]

The vitality of Kentucky's healthcare, especially in underserved areas, depends on the 340B program. Contract pharmacies play a pivotal role, especially in areas facing pharmacy deserts due to closures of local pharmacies, providing crucial access points for discounted medications. Without the protections offered by these bills, CHCs face the dire possibility of service reductions and workforce cuts, significantly impacting healthcare access in Kentucky.

These bills are not just about healthcare; they are about fairness, community well-being, and standing up against corporate greed. Your support can ensure that Kentucky's most vulnerable populations continue to have access to the healthcare they desperately need.

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Insert short summary of your organization.

INSERT CHC LOGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kentucky Healthcare Advocates Rally for Fair Access to Medications and
Support for Local Pharmacies**

*Key Legislation Aims to Shield Vulnerable Populations from Pharmaceutical
Exploitation*

Frankfort, KY – March 12, 2024 – In a concerted effort to combat predatory pharmaceutical practices, Kentucky healthcare leaders and pharmacists are calling on the state legislature to enact vital measures safeguarding safety-net clinics, hospitals, and independent pharmacies. The proposed bills, Senate Bill 27, and Senate Bill 188, address growing concerns around pharmaceutical manufacturers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) undermining the 340B Drug Pricing Program, directly impacting Kentucky's underserved.

[Insert Quote from Healthcare Representative or Local Health Center]

Senate Bill 27 aims to ensure affordable prescription access across Kentucky, challenging the refusal of major pharmaceutical companies to honor 340B pricing agreements with contracted pharmacies. This move is critical, especially for residents in pharmacy-scarce regions and rural areas, enhancing medication accessibility without additional state or federal funding.

Senate Bill 188 focuses on preserving patient pharmacy choice, mandating fair contracting and reimbursement practices among PBMs, and setting a reimbursement rate floor to prevent financial undercutting. This bill is designed to stop PBMs from exploiting systemic loopholes at the expense of Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients.

The 340B program has been a cornerstone for low-income patients, allowing for more affordable critical medications. Over 80% of Kentucky's CHC patients rely on these discounted prices to manage conditions like diabetes, asthma, and hypertension. Kentucky's CHCs, which served over 600,000 individuals in 2022, depend on 340B savings to deliver comprehensive care and address chronic diseases.

Molly Lewis, CEO for the Kentucky Primary Care Association states “The Kentucky Primary Care Association supports Senate Bills 27 and 188 and is grateful for the leadership of Senator Meredith and Senator Wise, respectively, in introducing these important bills. Both bills are

efforts to better align Kentucky laws with the federal programs necessary to create and sustain access to primary care services for patients in under resourced communities. Senate Bill 188 provides protections to Kentucky's safety net pharmacies by ensuring fair and equitable contractual arrangements between Pharmacy Benefit Managers and Kentucky's safety net pharmacies. Senate Bill 27 will prevent pharmacy manufacturers from unfair business practices that would limit patients' ability to access affordable drugs at their pharmacy of choice. KPCA supports these bills because they will further our members' delivery of charitable benefit to the patients and communities they serve."

The Kentucky Primary Care Association (KPCA), alongside community advocates, stress the urgency of legislative intervention. Without the protections offered by these bills, CHCs may face severe cutbacks, reducing services and workforce, thereby limiting healthcare access for many Kentuckians.

The passage of Senate Bills 27 and 188 is not just a policy update; it's a statement for healthcare equity, supporting Kentucky's commitment to its citizens' well-being over pharmaceutical profit margins.

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Insert a short summary of your organization.

Key Talking Points for Media

Importance of Community Health Centers (CHCs)

CHCs in Kentucky provide essential health care to over 600,000 low-income and vulnerable individuals, offering services regardless of their ability to pay. Community Health Centers (CHCs) are nonprofit, patient-led organizations, that provide high quality primary care to Kentucky's underserved communities, regardless of the ability to pay.

Community health centers provide a comprehensive array of primary care services in communities where there are not enough providers to serve the community and there are other barriers to health care services. In 2022, nearly half of all poor Kentuckian's received health care at a community health center.

340B Drug Pricing Program

The 340B Program was designed to allow safety-net providers to buy prescriptions at a discount price and reinvest any pharmacy savings back into their programs and services. This program is crucial for extending federal resources to reach more low-income patients and provide comprehensive services. Community Health Centers are required to invest every penny of 340B savings back into the services we provide.

340B enables CHCs to offer discounted medications like insulin, asthma inhalers, antidepressants, blood pressure and diabetes medications, and substance use medications. The 340B program is particularly vital, as over 80% of Kentucky's CHC patients would struggle to afford critical medications without it.

Community Health Centers generate 340B savings through their internal pharmacies and through contracted pharmacies. Both are needed to create a sufficient pharmacy network to service the more than 6000,000 Kentuckians who receive care through a community health center.

Threats

There are two threats to community health centers and the 340B program.

Threat 1 - Pharmaceutical Manufacturers: Since 2020, pharmaceutical manufacturers have been refusing to refill 340B medications to pharmacies that contract with community health centers, severely limiting patient access and affordability. Pharmacy manufacturers do this to limit the discounts they have to provide to safety-net providers like community health centers.

The closure of independent and retail pharmacies is exacerbating the issue of pharmacy deserts in many areas. 68+ independent pharmacies in Kentucky have shut their doors since 2022. Contracted pharmacies often serve as the sole option for patients, especially those with transportation barriers or those requiring evening or weekend hours.

Threat 2 - Exploitation by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs): Pharmacy Benefit Managers, or PBMs, operate as for-profit entities entrusted with administering prescription drug benefits for health insurers. However, they have exploited the lack of federal oversight within the pharmacy sector, including the 340B program, for their own financial gain.

PBMs use discriminatory contracting practices, unpredictable fees, and restrictive terms to siphon off 340B savings intended for community health centers (CHCs). This diversion of savings undermines the ability of CHCs to fulfill their mission of providing vital healthcare services to Kentuckians.

Impact of These Threats

Community health centers rely on the revenue generated by the pharmacy cost-savings to provide critical services to underserved populations. CHC's use 340B cost savings to cover uncompensated care, support non-reimbursable services that address underlying issues of chronic diseases (health education), and services that operate on a loss but are essential to the health of patients (i.e. dental services, behavioral health services). Without adequate protections, the ability of community health centers to serve their communities will be severely compromised, leaving many without vital healthcare services.

Legislative Solutions




There is a pressing need for legislative action to protect community health centers and our patients. Senate Bills 27 and 188 protect patients' access to their prescriptions and ensure community health centers can continue providing affordable medicines.




Senate Bill 27 recently passed the Kentucky Senate with Bi-partisan support (32-5). It requires pharmacy manufacturers to honor 340B pricing with pharmacies owned or contracted with a community health center and other "covered entities".



Senate Bill 188 creates protections against PBM practices such as reimbursing pharmacies at rates lower than the cost to purchase and dispense the medication, assessing fees, chargebacks, or other adjustments on pharmacy service reimbursement.

Notably, other states have already enacted similar legislation, indicating a broader movement to counteract pharmaceutical companies and PBM's restrictive and predatory practices.

SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

March 12	<p>Who provides care to everyone - regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay - and offers sliding fee scale options to people with low incomes? Your Kentucky Community Health Centers, providing health care to more than 600,000 Kentuckian each year.</p> <p>#SaveKYCHCs #PatientsNotPBMs #YesToSB27 #YesToSB188</p>	 <p>340B PHARMACIES ARE CRITICAL TO OUR PATIENTS HEALTH</p> <p>340B Pharmacies help make medications affordable for low-income Kentuckians.</p> <p>KPCA KENTUCKY PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION</p>
March 14	<p>Contract pharmacies are crucial in ensuring patients have access to affordable prescription medications. These pharmacies provide options for patients in pharmacy deserts or with limited transportation. #SaveKYCHCs #PatientsNotPBMs #YesToSB27 #YesToSB188</p> <p>Tell your state legislators to vote YES on SB27 & SB188!</p>	 <p>Community Health Centers have been on a mission to keep Kentuckians healthy.</p> <p>Community Health Centers cared for more than 600,000 Kentuckians who would otherwise have trouble accessing care.</p> <p>KPCA KENTUCKY PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION</p>
March 19	<p>National studies say it loud and clear: Community Health Centers are effective AND cost-efficient! Patients at Community Health Centers have 24% lower overall medical costs compared to others. We also reduce prescription-drug spending and lessen the need for emergency and inpatient care. Invest in Community Health Centers!</p> <p>#SaveKYCHCs #PatientsNotPBMs #YesToSB27 #YesToSB188</p>	 <p>KENTUCKY'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS</p> <p>Kentucky's Community Health Centers Deliver on High Quality Care.</p> <p>KPCA KENTUCKY PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION</p>

<p>March 21</p>	<p>Did you know that your Kentucky Community Health Center 340B Pharmacies helps non-profit healthcare providers buy medications at a discount?</p> <p>Did you also know that big pharmaceutical manufacturers refuse to honor this federal program to grow their profits? Senate Bill 27 will prevent drug manufacturers from restricting access to 340B medications. #SaveKYCHCs #PatientsNotPBMs #YesToSB27 #YesToSB188</p> <p>Tell your state legislators to vote YES on SB27!</p>	
<p>March 26</p>	<p>Did you know Kentucky's Community Health Centers reinvest 100% of their pharmacy savings right back into the community? 340B savings cover the cost of uncompensated care and support services such as dental and transportation. Help us protect these savings! #SaveKYCHCs #PatientsNotPBMs #YesToSB27 #YesToSB188</p> <p>Tell your state legislators to vote YES on SB27 & SB188!</p>	
<p>March 28</p>	<p>22 states have already taken a stand against discrimination towards small pharmacies like ours. Kentucky can do it too! Senate Bill 188 will make sure our pharmacies get fair treatment by stopping lower reimbursements, unfair fees, and other discriminatory practices. Let's make it happen! #SaveKYCHCs #PatientsNotPBMs #YesToSB27 #YesToSB188</p> <p>Tell your state legislators to vote YES on SB27 & SB188!</p>	

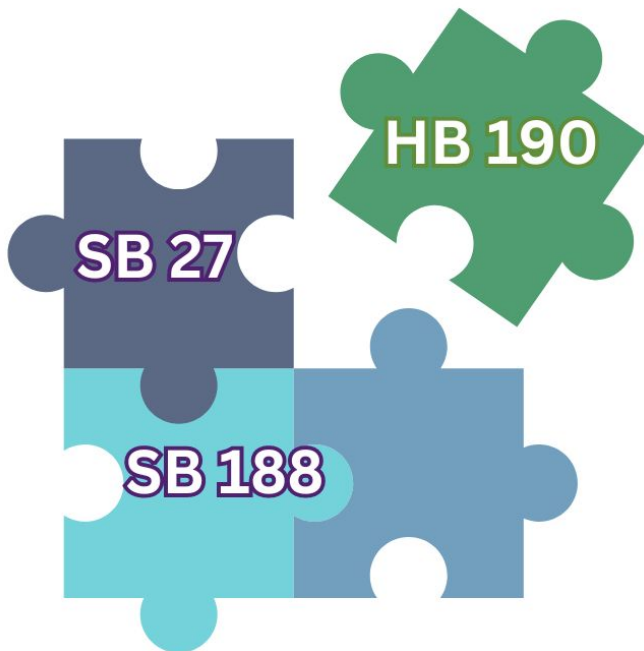
<p>April 2</p>	<p>KY Community Health Centers rely on our pharmacies for funding. In fact, community health centers across Kentucky would be forced to make tough choices, like cutting services, laying off staff, and seeing fewer patients. That's why we fight to protect our pharmacies! #SaveKYCHCs #PatientsNotPBMs #YesToSB27 #YesToSB188</p> <p>Tell your state legislators to vote YES on SB27 & SB188!</p>	<p>KENTUCKY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS</p> <p>Are the heartbeat of healthcare for those who need it most.</p> 
<p>April 4</p>	<p>By supporting community health centers and the 340B program, you invest in expanded services, care coordination, medication assistance, mental health support, and more. Let's build healthier communities together. #SaveKYCHCs #PatientsNotPBMs #YesToSB27 #YesToSB188</p> <p>Tell your state legislators to vote YES on SB27 & SB188!</p>	<p>KENTUCKY'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS</p> <p>340B Helps Us Care for <u>anyone</u>, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.</p> 



Patients Not PBMs

We need your help!

The Kentucky Primary Care Association is working hard to pass state legislation this year to protect our ability to provide affordable prescriptions to our patients.



Senate Bill 27 prevents drug manufacturers from refusing to send 340B medicines to pharmacies that contract with community health centers to deliver affordable medicines to patients. This bill will help patients get their prescriptions at affordable prices where it is convenient for them.

Senate Bill 188 - protects patient pharmacy choice by prohibiting steering to select pharmacies only, ensures patient pharmacy access by requiring that PBMs contract with any willing pharmacy, and to guarantee transparent and fair reimbursements to all pharmacies from all PBMs by setting a “floor” or minimum payment.

House Bill 190 prevents health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers from forcing or coercing patients to use their for-profit mail-order pharmacy services. *No call to action at this time.*

Take Action on SB 27 and SB 188 now!

We are at a critical point in the legislative session for these bills. **Call the Legislative Message Line today** and tell your elected officials to support SB 27 & SB 188! Its that simple.

1-800-372-7181

We need your help!

Your Community Health Center is working hard to pass state legislation to protect your pharmacy and access to affordable prescriptions.

Help support Senate Bills 27 & 188!

Community health centers are fighting greedy pharmaceutical corporations to keep your medications affordable and end predatory contracting that steals from health centers limited resources. SB 27 and SB 188 help protect your prescriptions and your health center!

Call the Legislative Message Line today and tell your elected officials to support SB 27 & SB 188. Let them know you depend on a 340B pharmacy for your prescriptions! **1-800-372-7181**

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