

Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley
Markup of S.1227, the Prescription Pricing for the People Act
June 27, 2019

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for putting S.1227, the Prescription Pricing for the People Act, on today's agenda. I introduced this bipartisan bill to ensure Congress is well-informed about intermediaries in our healthcare system, including PBMs, group purchasing organizations, and others in the supply chain.

Under my bill, the FTC will report back to Congress on the activities of—and mergers between—intermediaries and payers of prescription drug benefits. It'll also provide policy recommendations to improve transparency and encourage competition.

S.1227 is supported by the American Academy of Dermatology, the National Community Pharmacists Association, Consumer Reports, as well as the Alliance for Transparent and Affordable Prescriptions—whose letter of support I'd ask to include in the record, if no objection.

I also thank Senators Blumenthal, Tillis, Ernst, and Blackburn for co-sponsoring the bill.

The substitute amendment (SIL19772) incorporates technical assistance from the FTC, includes reporting language from Senator Whitehouse, and makes other improvements to shine a light on the pharmaceutical supply chain. The amendment's co-sponsored by Senators Blumenthal and Whitehouse.