



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIR340B Coalition Shares Concerns over Nebraska Bill That Will Only Bolster Contract Pharmacy & PBM Profits

LINCOLN, NE – The Alliance for Integrity and Reform of 340B (AIR340B) issued the following statement regarding Nebraska Legislative Bill 984 (LB 984), a bill that would further facilitate the explosive growth of 340B contract pharmacies in the 340B program:

“LB 984 permits national pharmacy chains to generate massive profits off a vital safety net program instead of serving vulnerable patients in Nebraska.

“Contract pharmacies, majority of which are owned by PBMs, generate profit margins on 340B drugs that are [three times](#) larger than those of independent clinics dispensing non-340B drugs. Those profits, combined with historically weak federal oversight, have spurred [rampant growth](#) in contract pharmacies. Today, more than [half](#) the entire U.S. pharmacy industry acts as 340B contract pharmacies. In 2023 alone, these pharmacies captured [\\$10 billion](#) in 340B funds that should have been used to lower costs for patients. Instead, they boosted margins for CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Cigna, and UnitedHealth – five companies that control [75%](#) of contract pharmacy relationships. And critically, contract pharmacies rarely serve Nebraska’s most vulnerable patients. Just [31%](#) of contract pharmacies in Nebraska are in medically underserved areas. In fact, Nebraska 340B hospitals have [nearly 200 contracts](#) with pharmacies entirely *outside* the state.

“We share concerns that LB 984 will spark even more uncontrolled growth in contract pharmacies and undermine efforts to bring much-needed transparency and accountability to

the 340B program. Visit our [Patient Journey](#) page to learn more about why the 340B program should serve patients, not for-profit pharmacies.”

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The Alliance for Integrity and Reform of 340B (AIR340B) is a coalition of patient advocacy groups, clinical care providers, and biopharmaceutical innovators dedicated to reforming and strengthening the 340B program to ensure it directly supports access to outpatient prescription medicines for uninsured indigent patients. www.340Breform.org.