



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mississippi Bill Allows Contract Pharmacies and PBMs to Put Profits Over Patients**

**Jackson, MS** – The Alliance for Integrity and Reform of 340B (AIR340B) issued the following statement regarding Mississippi Senate Bill 2145 (SB 2145) and House Bill 728 (HB 728), legislation that would allow for unchecked growth of for-profit contract pharmacies in the 340B program:

“SB 2145/HB 728 would facilitate continued unrestricted growth of contract pharmacies in the 340B program without any oversight or regulations to ensure the federal safety-net program is not being abused by industry middlemen at the expense of Mississippi patients.

“The 340B program was designed to help medically underserved patients access necessary medications by offering steep discounts to safety net clinics and qualifying hospitals. However, money is being siphoned from the program to boost the bottom lines of profit-seeking contract pharmacies and PBMs such as Walgreens, Walmart, CVS, UnitedHealth, and Cigna – which control [75% of contract pharmacy relationships](#). The 340B program has exploded in size; discounted 340B purchases reached [nearly \\$54 billion](#) in 2022 nationwide – 23% higher than in 2021. But this unchecked growth has not been accompanied by increased patient access and affordability. In Mississippi, [nearly 40%](#) of 340B hospitals provide charity care at levels below the national average.

“The number of 340B contract pharmacies has exploded by [2,400%](#) since 2010, leading to a bloated federal program with limited safeguards to ensure chain pharmacies and PBMs don’t

exploit the program for profit. SB 2145/HB 728 will only continue to allow for 340B abuse without holding bad actors accountable for putting profits over patients.

“Visit [www.340Breform.org](http://www.340Breform.org) to learn more about how the 340B program should serve patients, not 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](http://www.340Breform.org).