



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 2, 2024

**CONTACT:**

[Media@340Breform.org](mailto:Media@340Breform.org)

## **Maryland Bill Would Allow Unrestricted 340B Growth With No Guaranteed Savings for Patients**

**Annapolis, MD** – The Alliance for Integrity and Reform of 340B (AIR340B) issued the following statement regarding Maryland House Bill 1056 (HB 1056), legislation that would accelerate the growth of for-profit contract pharmacies in the 340B program:

“HB 1056 puts profits over Maryland patients by allowing large chain pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to redirect 340B dollars that should be serving low-income, disadvantaged Maryland patients to pad their bottom lines.

“Contract pharmacies should be located in medically underserved areas if the 340B program was working as intended, but in Maryland, just 17% of contract pharmacies are located among the populations they are meant to serve. For years, large pharmacy chains like Walgreens, Walmart, and CVS, large hospitals, and PBM middlemen have abused the 340B program to siphon funds from this federal safety net program that is meant to serve low-income patients. Contract pharmacies captured \$10 billion in 340B funds in 2023 alone – funds that should have been utilized to increase charity care in underserved areas, but instead were directed into the pockets of for-profit companies.

“The number of 340B contract pharmacies has exploded by 2,400% since 2010, without the necessary federal oversight to ensure transparency and accountability. HB 1056 will only continue to allow PBMs and massive chain pharmacies to financially benefit without putting Maryland patients first. In order to preserve this vital safety net program, patients must come before profits.

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

###

**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).