



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ohio Legislation Would Allow Chain Pharmacies and PBMs to Profit at the Expense of Patients in Need**

**Columbus, OH** – The Alliance for Integrity and Reform of 340B (AIR340B) issued the following statement regarding Ohio House Bill 588 (HB 588)/Senate Bill 269 (SB 269), legislation that would permit further unchecked profiteering by contract pharmacies in the 340B program:

“HB 588/SB 269 would allow for the ongoing expansion of contract pharmacies in 340B, contributing to the accelerated and unrestricted growth of the program. This legislation allows large chain pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to prioritize their own profits from 340B dollars over the needs of vulnerable Ohioans.

“The accelerated growth in 340B contract pharmacies enables huge corporate pharmacy chains and PBMs to capture billions in 340B profit without any guarantee that savings are being passed along to communities in need. One way hospitals provide benefits to the community is through charity care to low-income or uninsured patients. However, 70% of Ohio 340B hospitals provide below-average levels of charity care. Meanwhile, the rate of contracts between covered entities and pharmacies has exploded over recent years, allowing both to massively profit from the 340B program. Ohio 340B hospitals have nearly 3,500 contracts with 340B pharmacies - 38% of which are with pharmacies outside of Ohio state lines. This undercuts the original goal of the 340B safety net program to lower patient costs and provide services to the patients who need it most.

“The number of contract pharmacies within 340B has expanded without safeguards to ensure transparency and accountability for entities looking to abuse the program. HB 588/SB 269 will only continue to allow PBMs and pharmacies to siphon funds away from patients in need.

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