



A CAMPAIGN BY  CALIFORNIA
ACCESS COALITION
ASSOCIATION FOR ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH TREATMENT

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CONTACT: Brooke Witzelberger
brooke@perrycom.com
(916) 658-0144

California Access Coalition Issues Statement in Response to the Federal Trade Commission’s Report on Prescription Drug Middlemen

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Le Ondra Clark Harvey, PhD, Executive Director of the California Access Coalition, released the following statement in response to the [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\) report](#) on the detrimental impacts of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs):

"Today’s FTC’s report underscores the significant impact PBMs have on the accessibility and affordability of prescription drugs. Currently, the six largest PBMs manage nearly 95% of all prescriptions in the United States and leverage their dominance to profit at the expense of patients and independent pharmacists. The FTC highlights how this concentrated power allows PBMs to overcharge patients, even for critical medications, and impose unfair terms on independent pharmacies, threatening their ability to serve communities, especially in rural areas.

"The FTC's findings align with our concerns about the high costs patients face at the pharmacy counter. [Senate Bill 873](#) (Bradford) offers a crucial solution by mandating that 90% of rebates be passed directly to patients, providing immediate financial relief and improving access to essential medications. As seen in states like New Mexico, West Virginia, Arkansas, and Washington, such reforms are feasible and can positively impact patients' lives.

"According to PBMs and health insurers, prescription drug rebates enable insurers to save billions of dollars and keep premiums low. However, we aren’t seeing this in practice. There has been a troubling trend of cost-shifting, which results in higher out-of-pocket costs for patients, especially those on high-deductible health plans. SB 873 addresses this inequity by ensuring that savings are shared with the patients who need them most.

"SB 873 would bring meaningful change to California's health care system. I thank the author, Senator Bradford, for his commitment to this measure and urge our coalition partners, legislators, and stakeholders to request SB 873 come off the Suspense File in August. California patients deserve no less."

About California Access Coalition

The California Access Coalition (CAC) is a network of local and state behavioral health organizations, patient advocacy groups, and pharmaceutical companies that advocate to eliminate barriers that keep Californians from accessing medication and behavioral health treatment. Follow CAC on [Twitter](#) and learn more by visiting www.californiaaccesscoalition.org.