



February 26, 2025

The Honorable Buddy Carter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: An Examination of How Reining in PBMs Will Drive Competition and Lower Costs for Patients

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member DeGette,

The Center for American Principles writes to set the record straight on misleading claims Families USA Executive Director Anthony Wright made in pre-submitted [testimony](#) for your upcoming hearing, "[An Examination of How Reining in PBMs Will Drive Competition and Lower Costs for Patients](#)." Mr. Wright's assertion that drug makers "systematically abuse" patent protections is not only false, but an outright assault on the free-market principles that have made the United States the world leader in medical innovation.

Mr. Wright [asserts](#) that pharmaceutical companies are patenting "minor tweaks" to existing drugs in order to extend monopolies and stifle competition. But the reality is far different. Incremental innovation is a feature of scientific progress, not a bug. Many of the most important medical advances come not from overnight miracles, but from refining and improving existing medicines over the course of years or even decades. That is how we get drugs that work faster, last longer, and treat more conditions and patient populations safely and effectively.

Strong patents fuel this innovation. They are not a tool of corporate greed, but a fundamental property right that protects the billions in private investment required to

research, develop, and bring life-saving treatments to patients. The average cost to develop a single new medicine is over [\\$2 billion](#) and the process often takes more than a [decade](#). Stripping patent protections in the name of "competition" would not lower prices, but it would dry up investment and leave patients with fewer treatment options in the future.

Any short-term "savings" from weakening patents would come at a steep cost in the long run. Undermining intellectual property rights would bankrupt the very system that turns scientific breakthroughs into real cures, drives America's economic engine, and keeps us at the forefront of global innovation.

A country that does not protect property rights and reward high-risk innovation is a country that will inevitably fall behind. We urge the Subcommittee to stand firm in defending the intellectual property system that fuels our economy, strengthens our leadership on the world stage, and most importantly, delivers medical breakthroughs to the patients who need them.

Sincerely,

Anthony J Zagotta

President

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