



Delaware General Assembly:

Healthcare access and affordability are a major source of stress for Delaware residents with [more than 16% of Delaware residents living in medical debt](#). Studies show that [Delaware residents spend more than \\$15,000 a year on healthcare, which is thousands of dollars more than the national average](#). Our organizations represent patients, healthcare providers, and other key parts of the healthcare ecosystem working collectively to improve access to affordable, innovative treatments and serve as a voice for the local community.

While we appreciate the intent of proponents of this bill to improve healthcare access and affordability in Delaware, **unfortunately, we feel House Bill 383 is premature.**

- **The 340B Program was created to help vulnerable patients, but today the 340B program fails to lower patient drug costs or support the community the program was designed to serve.** Through the program, drug manufacturers provide [more than \\$54 billion in discounted product](#). Yet only [1.4% of patients received a discount on their 340B prescriptions](#) at contract pharmacies through the program. A recent investigative piece by the New York Times, [Profits Over Patients: How a Hospital Chain Used a Poor Neighborhood to Turn Huge Profits](#), explores the federal 340B program and how it's hurting access to healthcare by eliminating basic medical services, especially in poor and underserved areas, which is the exact opposite of the program's original intention to help in-need communities get the services they need.
- **The 340B Program doesn't ensure benefits reach low-income patients.** Problems with the 340B Program arose when HRSA released a guidance letter in 2010 that allowed covered entities to contract with an unlimited number of pharmacies for 340B prices. Since then, the number of contract pharmacies has increased 8,000%. Sadly, as the program has grown, the percentage of these pharmacies in underserved and economically disadvantaged areas has decreased. [Growth of 340B contract pharmacies](#) is instead increasingly concentrated in "affluent and predominantly White neighborhoods," and 340B contract pharmacy growth is declining in "socioeconomically disadvantaged and primarily non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods." The minimal prescription discounts that are currently available through the 340B Program are not available to the patients who most need them. Today in Delaware, there are 142 contracts between Delaware 340B entities and pharmacies nationwide, and only 50% of contract pharmacies are in medically underserved areas.
- **340B Program expansion is premature while the program is under federal investigation.** Last September, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee opened an [investigation into how 340B revenue is spent](#) to help patients. Since then, the investigation has requested information on revenue spending from 340B [covered entities](#) and [contract pharmacies](#). Additionally, a working group of six bipartisan Senators released a [legislative discussion draft](#) that aims to reform the 340B Program and ensure it is helping patients the way policymakers originally intended.

Efforts are underway at the federal level to address the disparities that currently exist in the 340B Program and we urge you to wait until those changes are made before taking any action at the state level. We need to be sure the program works as originally intended – to improve access and health equity in Delaware. Thank you for all you do to improve the quality of lives for all.

Sincerely,

AiArthritis
 American Senior Alliance
 Biomarker Collaborative
 Coalition of Hematology & Oncology Practices
 Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
 Community Access National Network (CANN)
 Derma Care Access Network
 Exon 20 Group

HEALS of the South
 Hispanic Business Alliance
 ICAN - International Cancer Advocacy Network
 Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
 MET Crusaders
 Neuropathy Action Foundation
 PD-L1 Amplifieds