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March 13, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley (R-IA)
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Cantwell and Grassley:

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) represents more than 17,000 dermatologists nationwide. The AADA is committed to excellence in the medical and surgical treatment of skin disease; advocating for high standards in clinical practice, education, and research in dermatology and dermatopathology; and driving continuous improvement in patient care and outcomes while reducing the burden of skin disease.

The Academy is pleased to offer its support for S. 127, the *Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act*, which is intended to increase drug pricing transparency and hold pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) accountable for practices that drive up prescription drug costs. The Academy strongly supports transparency in the role of PBMs in setting drug prices, so patients, physicians, pharmacists, and employers, including the federal government, know the true cost of prescription drugs.

Consolidation of the industry and current financial arrangements must be monitored to avoid conflict of interest including that which interferes with patient choice of pharmacy. The Academy believes PBMs must disclose how much of the rebates and discounts are passed on to the patient. Further investigation is necessary to determine the extent to which PBM negotiations and arranged rebates affect formularies, tiers, and drug prices.

Dermatologists are committed to providing the most effective and cost-efficient care and therapies to their patients. Patients suffering from chronic, disabling conditions face significant interference with activities of daily life and a substantial impact on their mental health and personal well-being. Access to affordable medication and other treatments for these conditions

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is not only medically necessary, it is life-changing. Dermatology drugs have been disproportionately impacted by rising drug prices. When drugs become cost-prohibitive for patients, they often go without.

The AADA has made patient access to affordable treatments and transparency in drug pricing a top priority. Thank you again for your continued leadership and we look forward to working with you in the 118th Congress to champion patient access issues. Please feel free to contact Christine O'Connor, the Academy's Associate Director, Congressional Policy at coconnor@aad.org or (202) 609-6330 if you have any questions or if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Kaufmann', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Mark D. Kaufmann, MD, FAAD
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association