



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

1702 Clifton Road Suite 1650
Atlanta, GA 30322
www.spanationwide.org

October 5, 2026

The Honorable Chris Gebhard, Chair
Pennsylvania Senate Banking and Insurance Committee
Pennsylvania State Senate
Pennsylvania State Capital, 501 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120

Position Letter: S.B. 190 (2025-2026) Pharmaceutical Transparency Act

Dear Chairman Gebhard and members of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee,

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) appreciates the intent of and strongly supports S.B. 190, which seeks to streamline telehealth accessibility for those on Medicare. This bill would increase the transparency around drug costs and financial practices across the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry, empower healthcare providers, patients, and policymakers tools to combat price gouging, and provide dedicated regulatory oversight. Furthermore, the proposal expands accountability and tracks the primary costs drivers behind prescriptions to help constituents across the state make more informed decisions.

For the reasons listed below, we strongly support this bill and wish for it to succeed:

- This proposal would increase the transparency around drug costs and financial practices within the pharmaceutical industry in Pennsylvania. It provides for cost transparency by establishing the Pharmaceutical Transparency Review Board and creating the dedicated Pharmaceutical Transparency Review Fund to support regulatory oversight and enforcement. It would grant the board explicit powers and the ability to review, evaluate, and audit pricing mechanisms and be able to impose penalties for those who don't comply or fail to report.
- It would not prohibit lawful pharmaceutical business practices; rather, it would enable healthcare providers, patients, and policymakers to fight against price gouging and be able to track the cost drivers behind drug prices so that patients can make more informed choices across PA's healthcare environment.
- Pennsylvania's SB 190 builds on the existing framework set by Act 120 of 2020 and Act 77 of 2024 for PBM accountability and drug cost oversight, aligning with mechanisms under the Inflation Reduction Act and guidelines set by the CMS. As well as established drug price review and transparency models in Maine, Vermont, and California.
- Supported by Republican co-sponsorship alongside Democratic leaders, the bill leverages bipartisan healthcare transparency models to foster competition and deliver consumer



savings. By aligning state data collection with the existing federal databases, the proposal would eliminate reporting burdens and minimize costs which offers a streamlined, practical framework for immediate legislative success.

A revised version of SB 190 that is streamlined to focus on core drug pricing transparency without imposing mandates that are restrictive would significantly enhance its legislative viability. It would provide patients, providers, and state leaders with the crucial data needed to make informed healthcare decisions.

For all these reasons, SPAN supports SB 190, and we respectfully urge your support for this bill. Sponsored by Senator Sharif street with bipartisan support, the bill represents the pathway to the future of vital response to patient needs and helping track cost drivers and protect healthcare options and foster competition across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Kathit Kadakia

Kathit Kadakia

(832) 847-5689 | kathit.kadakia@spanationwide.org

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN)



Resources:

18 V.S.A. § 4632. Disclosure of allowable expenditures and gifts by manufacturers of prescribed products. (2025). Vermont.Gov.

CMS. (2024, September 10). *Hospital price transparency.*

Health plan price transparency | CMS. (2022). Cms.Gov.

H.R.410 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Health care PRICE transparency act. (2023).

Open payments data overview | CMS. (2017). Cms.Gov.

Prescription drug price transparency. (2022). Maine.Gov.

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania Senate bill an act providing for pharmaceutical transparency; establishing the Pharmaceutical transparency Review Board and providing for its powers and duties; establishing the pharmaceutical transparency review fund; and imposing a penalty. (n.d.).

(2025). Senate Bill 190 Information; 2025-2026 Regular Session - The Official Website of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.