

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
United States Senate  
127A Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 17, 2023

Dear Senator Cruz,

As the Nueces County Republican Party Chair, I commend your leadership to stop the unbridled power of the federal government to dictate how private businesses and Texas citizens can operate.

Your work in Washington is vitally important to preserve our free market economy, which is why I'm writing to you today to respectfully request you oppose legislation that would enable further government overreach targeting pharmacy benefits, undermine competition and increase the cost of prescription drugs for small businesses and hardworking Texans — all by handing greater power and authority to the reckless and far-left Biden Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

S. 127, the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act, would encourage the Biden FTC to target pharmacy benefit companies with heavy handed government regulation and harassment designed to weaken an entire industry and block private companies from employing common business practices.

Christine Wilson, the only Republican FTC commissioner remaining on the panel, just resigned from her position because she couldn't abide by the brazenly anti-free-market abuses of the Biden FTC any longer.

I applaud you for calling attention to the danger of this approach in a recent statement from your office, which said the legislation should be viewed "with 'extreme caution' given both the possibility the bill would raise drug prices and that the Commission will soon lack a single minority commissioner."

Conservative health care experts have similarly sounded the alarm on this dangerous Democratic bill. "One such misguided idea is a bill the Senate Commerce Committee will consider this week that would give the Federal Trade Commission the authority to limit the ability of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to negotiate lower drug prices from drug companies," wrote Jack Kemp Foundation fellow Ike Brannon in a recent column in Forbes. "If passed, it would serve to increase drug costs and worsen health outcomes for many people who take prescription drugs."

Texans who know the power of the free market, greater competition and innovation are the key to addressing high prescription drug prices — and who oppose handing the Biden administration more authority to target American businesses — are counting on your effective leadership to stop S. 127.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Barbie Baker

Nueces County Republican Party Chair