

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 28, 2025

Mr. David Cordani
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Cigna Group
900 Cottage Grove Rd.
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Dear Mr. Cordani:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is continuing to investigate the role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) in pharmaceutical markets. Specifically, the Committee is investigating whether Cigna Group’s Evernorth Health Services, the parent company of Express Scripts,¹ uses its foreign headquartered group purchasing organization (GPO)—Ascent Health Services, Inc. (Ascent) which is headquartered in Switzerland²—to evade transparency and oversight in the United States.³ The Committee requests documents and communications regarding the creation and role of Ascent.

In July 2024, the Committee released a report entitled, “The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Prescription Drug Markets,” detailing how PBMs used their position as middlemen to enact anticompetitive policies and protect their bottom line.⁴ The report also highlighted how GPOs create another layer of pricing opacity and complexity.⁵ This is especially true for GPOs headquartered overseas as these entities may be used to retain additional revenue and fees and to sidestep U.S. legislative and regulatory reforms.⁶ Ascent, which Cigna Group’s Express Scripts created in 2019 and headquartered in Switzerland, appears to be yet another example of the institutional intent at opacity and avoidance of oversight of your company.⁷

¹ *State v. Evernorth Health, Inc., et al.*, No. 2:2024cv01103, 18-20 (D. Vt., filed October 16, 2024) (“Until 2021, Evernorth Health, Inc., conducted business under the name Express Scripts Holding Company.”).

² *Group purchasing organizations and ascent*, Evernorth Health Services (last accessed Aug. 14, 2025) (“In 2019...Express Scripts and a co-founder launched a GPO called Ascent Health Services.”).

³ Press Releases, U.S. Fed. Trade Comm., FTC Sues Prescription Drug Middlemen for Artificially Inflating Insulin Drug Prices (Sept. 30, 2024).

⁴ H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform, *Staff Report, The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Prescription Drug Markets*, 118th Congress, at 33, 34 (July 23, 2024) [hereinafter “House PBM Report”].

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Interim Staff Report, U.S. Fed. Trade Comm., Off. of Pol’y Plan., *Pharmacy Benefit Managers: The Powerful Middleman Inflating Drug Costs and Squeezing Main Street Pharmacies*, 22 (July 2024).

⁷ House PBM Report, *supra* note 3, at 34; Adam J. Fein, *Five (or Maybe Six?) Reasons that the Largest PBMS Operate Group Purchasing Organizations*, DRUG CHANNELS (May 24, 2023).

In April, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order that “required PBMs to disclose the fees they pay to brokers for enrolling employers in PBMs”⁸ and the Federal Trade Commission also resumed its lawsuit against PBMs and their affiliated GPOs.⁹ The Committee is concerned that your company’s opaque business practices and relationships, including the creation of new corporate structures abroad, combined with unchecked integration, is hurting patients and costing taxpayers.

To assist the Committee in further understanding the role of PBMs and their foreign headquartered GPOs in pharmaceutical markets, please provide the following documents and information, covering the time period January 1, 2019 to the present unless otherwise indicated, no later than September 11, 2025:

1. All corporate formation and organizational documents for Ascent;
2. All communications between and among Express Scripts and its affiliated entities and owners regarding the decision to form a GPO;
3. The names of all members of Ascent’s board of directors, including their tenure on the board and their board committee assignments;
 - a. The names of all Ascent board members who currently serve, or have previously served, on the boards of directors of any affiliated entity or owner company;
 - b. The names of all Ascent board members who serve, or have previously served, on the boards of directors of any participating PBMs.
4. Any past or present Ascent internal policies and procedures related to compliance with all applicable U.S. federal and state PBM laws, regulations and/or reporting requirements;
5. All contracts between and among Ascent and any PBM;
6. All documents and communications related to Ascent’s negotiations with drug manufacturers or drug wholesalers utilizing the terms, or iterations of these terms, “rebate” or “fees”;
7. All documents and communications provided by Ascent to payers utilizing the terms, or iterations of these terms, “rebate” or “fees”;
8. A list of data fields Ascent shares with Express Scripts and any other PBM; and

⁸ Rylee Wilson, *The Trump administration’s approach to PBMs, so far: 5 things to know*, BECKERS HOSP. REV. (June 23, 2025).

⁹ *Id.*

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9. Internal policies and procedures related to rebate or fee contracts with drug manufacturers and drug wholesalers.

To arrange for the delivery of documents or ask any related follow up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform