

WellLink Health Alliance Statement of Support for the 340B Drug Pricing Program

WellLink Health Alliance stands in strong support of the 340B Drug Pricing Program, which allows eligible healthcare providers to maintain, improve, and expand access to essential medicines and services for the patients and communities they serve.

Established by Congress in 1992 with broad bipartisan support, the 340B program was designed with a simple and powerful purpose: to help safety-net hospitals and community-based providers stretch limited resources, reinvest savings into patient care, and expand access for those most in need.

Through 340B, participating providers can purchase outpatient medications at discounted prices, allowing them to offer free or reduced-cost prescriptions, fund vital community programs, and offset the growing costs of care. These savings directly support services such as chronic disease management, behavioral health care, transportation assistance, and other programs that help patients stay healthy and connected to care.

The benefits of 340B extend far beyond hospitals' and community health centers' walls. In 2022, hospitals participating in the 340B program provided nearly \$100 billion in total community benefits, including financial assistance, mental health services, and other forms of uncompensated care; this is more than double the value of all 340B drug purchases that same year. These reinvestments demonstrate the program's impact and its essential role in sustaining community well-being.

The 340B program is especially vital for rural hospitals and small community providers, which often serve as the only access points for care across vast regions. Nearly half of rural hospitals operate at a loss, yet 340B savings help them keep doors open, retain staff, and continue providing essential services close to home.

While the program has grown over time, that growth reflects its success and Congress's continued recognition of its value including expansions that brought much-needed support to rural and safety-net hospitals. As healthcare costs continue to rise and provider margins shrink, the 340B program remains one of the most effective tools for ensuring access to care for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients.

WellLink Health Alliance urges policymakers to preserve and protect the 340B Drug Pricing Program so that hospitals and health systems can continue to meet the needs of their communities — today and in the future.