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Ohio AG Yost's lawsuit against drug middlemen 'gai international impact

by Darrel Rowland Mon, March 27th 2023



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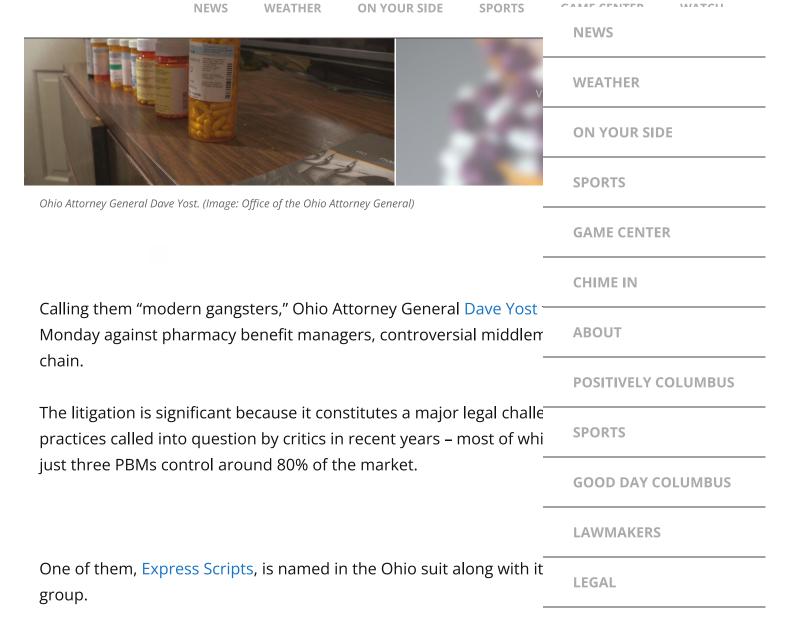
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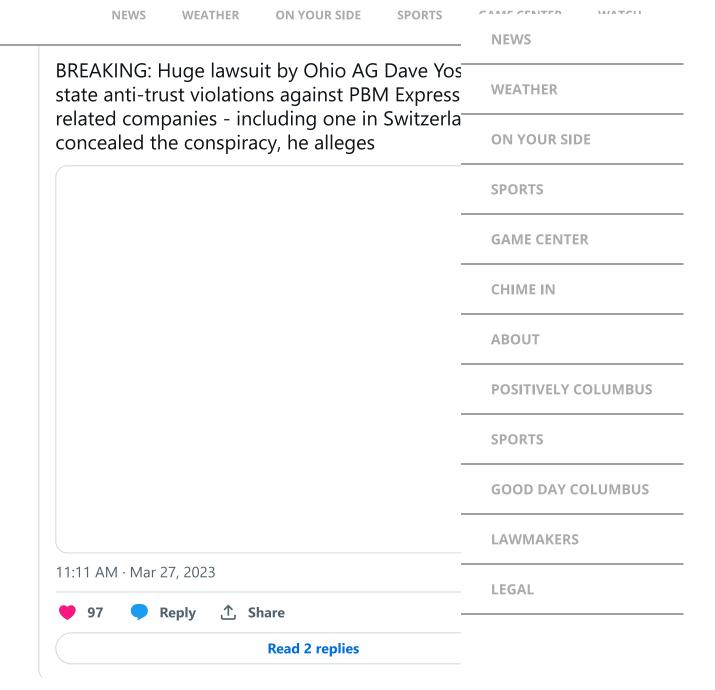
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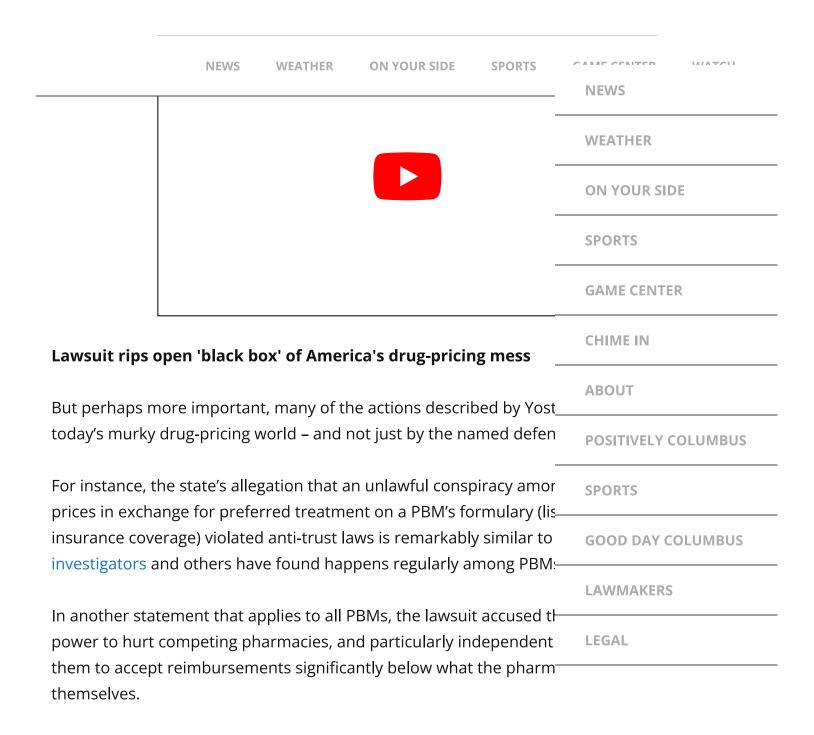


The former is accused in the lawsuit of setting up a mysterious entity price collusion with a purported competitor.



"The PBMs were designed to protect and negotiate on behalf of empafter Big Pharma was criticized for overpricing medications, but install destroyed transparency, scheming in the shadows to control drug p market," Yost said in a news release.

ABC 6 On Your Side reached out to four different media representat Scripts for comment on the lawsuit, but had not heard back from ar



"Pharmacies in under-served areas or rural communities in Ohio, whe patient's first line of treatment, are struggling to stay in business durdemands by the PBMs."

The lawsuit describes a "complex 'pay to play' rebate system that, per manufacturers to increase drug prices in order to be placed on or reson PBM formularies."

The big PBMs, combined with health insurers and pharmacies unde so dominate the system that they can "extract exorbitant fees" and '

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"In the United States, over-inflated drug prices are born out of a high where little-known but massively sized PBMs often dictate our realit founder of drug-price watchdog 3 Axis Advisers who exposed many practices in Ohio.

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"When Dave Yost first started pursuing litigation regarding the hiddemiddle of the prescription drug supply chain, he promised that mandrop. To build on the metaphor, Yost just dropped the steel-toed bo

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Pharmacy benefit manager Express Scripts profited from unfair trade practices, a new Ohio lawsuit alleg

PBMs are like...kudzu?

The lawsuit starts with agricultural metaphor:

"Like the import of kudzu to stop soil erosion, the creation of the ph was a solution that has become the problem. Through industry cons landscape is dominated by three big players With this dominance, the box that holds a complex administration system that allows the PBN Scripts, to enrich themselves in multiple ways.

The other two PBMs: CVS' Caremark and UnitedHealth Group's Opti	NEWS		
Express Scripts "knowingly and willfully made false statements of fac	WEATHER		
was providing, as well as "repeated misrepresentations" on the char quality of its services, the lawsuit says.	ON YOUR SIDE		
Yost alleged the collusion jacked up the price of many of Ohioans' dı	SPORTS		
"For example," Yost said, "an estimated 1.1 million Ohioans are diab	GAME CENTER		
thousands of them, daily insulin injections are essential to survival, l concealed scheme has fueled an astronomical increase in the price			
\$20 per unit in the late 1990s to between \$300 and \$700 per unit to	ABOUT		
Yost says the scheme impacts several other types of drugs, as well a	POSITIVELY COLUMBUS		
"Medications shouldn't cost an arm and a leg, metaphorically or liter	SPORTS		
a symptom of the problem; PBMs are the disease."	GOOD DAY COLUMBUS		
Also named as defendants were Prime Therapeutics, Ascent, Humarits parent company, Humana.	LAWMAKERS		
After congressional pressure on drug pricing, Express Scripts formed	LEGAL		
purchasing organization, in 2019. The same year, per the lawsuit, the competitor, Prime Therapeutics, to become a minority owner of Asc customers is Humana Pharmacy Solutions.			
Through Ascent, relocated from St. Louis to Switzerland, the group is and rebate information with one another, as well as to fix rebate pri lawsuit said. It adds that the three also "negotiate with (drug) manuf			
increasing the price of pharmaceuticals, including insulins, biologics			

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Ohioans' health and lives."

In sum, per the lawsuit, "The defendants have harmed not just mark

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