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We need our government to stand up and take on healthcare conglomerates that drive costs up, quality down, and independent providers out of business.

Recently, the Justice Department reversed course on UnitedHealth Group's proposed \$3.3 billion acquisition of home health and hospice care provider Amedisys. Last year, the department sued to block the transaction, arguing that it would eliminate head-to-head competition between the merging parties that lowers costs, improves care quality, and betters working conditions for healthcare workers. Earlier this month it the DOJ proposed to settle the case, caving to Big Medicine at the expense of vulnerable hospice patients and the workers who care for them.

U.S. District Judge James Bredar, who is presiding over the case, must use his authority under the 1974 Tunney Act to scrutinize the Justice Department's proposed settlement in the best interest of the public.

The UnitedHealth Group-Amedisys merger is just one of several recent examples of how the second Trump administration is trusting Big Medicine to put the public's interests above its own, despite decades of evidence to the contrary. In May, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order requesting that drug manufacturers voluntarily lower their drug prices. This is a transparent political ploy to pretend this merger will help consumers.

In June, Trump's health cabinet announced a "pledge" by Big Medicine insurers to reduce their self-imposed prior authorization requirements, which prevent patients from accessing care and physicians from exercising their clinical judgment. Perhaps as a concession, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) then announced it will enlist Big Medicine insurers to expand prior authorization in traditional Medicare and compensate them based on how much money they save – or, in other words, how much care they deny.

Later that month, CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz suggested giving pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) "one last chance to fix [the inflationary drug rebate system] on their own" before Congress does it for them.

In each case, the Trump administration is asking *nicely* if Big Medicine conglomerates will clean up the mess they have made of the U.S. healthcare system instead of using its authority to hold them accountable for playing with patients' lives. Americans deserve better, which is why **we must break up Big Medicine for good.**