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The NRLN advocates the rights of more than 2 million American retirees from...

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July 10, 2017

The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2209

Dear Representative Levin:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I urge you to call for votes on three bills in the Subcommittee on Health. Those bills are **H.R. 817**, End Surprise Billing Act of 2017; **H.R. 2113**, Speeding Access to Already Approved Pharmaceuticals Act of 2017, and **H.R. 2212**, CREATES Act of 2017.

H.R. 817 would work to prevent millions of Americans from receiving surprise medical bills by protecting individuals experiencing a medical emergency from unexpected bills, and requiring all hospitals that participate in the Medicare program to have increased billing transparency with patients regarding potential out-of-network providers. The NRLN believes the bill should be amended to also apply to Urgent Care Clinics whether a branch of a hospital or not.

H.R. 2113 would require the Food and Drug Administration to expedite the review of pharmaceuticals that are approved by the European Union. Specifically, the legislation requires the FDA Commissioner to facilitate the development and expedite the review of a drug within 90 days of the EU approving a pharmaceutical. Speeding up the approval process will improve the quality of life for many Americans, may save some lives and potentially lower the cost of prescription drugs by bring more competition to the pharmaceutical market.

H.R. 2212, the CREATES (Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples) Act targets abusive delay tactics that are being used to block entry of affordable generic drugs. For example, a generic competitor has to prove equivalence to the branded product to win FDA approval, and that requires extensive testing with anywhere from 1,500 to 5,000 tablets of the original treatment. But brand-name drug companies are invoking FDA safe-use and distribution restrictions to avoid handing over the capsules.

The CREATES Act is intended to provide an efficient, tailored path for generic drug manufacturers to obtain relief so they can continue working to bring their lower-cost product to market. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the CREATES Act would result in a \$3.3 billion net decrease in the federal deficit. The savings to consumers and private insurance companies would likely be far greater.

The NRLN's full Legislative Agenda and detailed whitepapers can be found at www.nrln.org. Your consideration on these issues would also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Kadereit". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Kadereit, President
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Email: president@nrln.org