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

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December 10, 2015

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I want to thank you for introducing S. 2023, the Prescription Drug Affordability Act of 2015.

The NRLN agrees with you that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should be authorized to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies to bring down costs for Medicare drug benefits. We are pleased that S. 2023 also includes tougher penalties for drug companies that commit fraud and bans the practice of brand name drug makers paying competitors to keep lower-priced generic substitutes off the market. As your bill would require, the NRLN has been advocating lowering barriers to the importation of safe, lower-cost drugs from Canada.

As you probably know, other Senators and Representatives have introduced bills that if passed would accomplish some of the same things as your bill. For example, the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act (S. 1884 and H.R. 3261) includes a provision to require the HHS Secretary to negotiate for lower drug prices. The Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada Act (S. 122 and H.R. 2228) would allow individuals to import safe prescription drugs from our northern neighbors. The NRLN hopes you will join ranks with Senators sponsoring these bills to get a drug savings bill to the floor of the Senate for a vote and passed.

I have also sent a letter to Representative Elijah Cummings to thank him for introducing H.R. 3513, the companion bill to your bill in the House of Representatives.

If the NRLN can help gain the passage of S. 2023, please contact me or Marta Bascom, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC at 703-863-9611 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

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,

President, National Retiree Legislative Network
Phone: 972-722-5928 Email: president@nrln.org