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

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June 5, 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees and future retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network, I am requesting that you support calling for a vote in the Committee on Judiciary on **S. 1227, Prescription Pricing for the People Act of 2019.**

S. 1227 would require the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to study the role and recent merger activity of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), as well as possible anticompetitive behaviors. Passage of this bill would help shine a light on the PBM industry by examining the effects of consolidation on pricing and other potentially abusive behavior. It also requires the FTC to provide policy recommendations to Congress.

PBMs are expected to “negotiate” with pharmaceutical companies to gain lower prices for prescription drugs, but often act in their own profit interest. Congress should enact policy mandating that Medicare implement a “competitive bidding” model used in business and industry that will permit direct purchasing of prescription drugs from drug manufacturers.

Competitive bidding should be allied applied wherever two or more FDA approved generic drugs, or two or more brand drugs, or a generic and brand drugs (upon patent expiration) treat the same medical condition. Competitive bidding will not create bigger government, it will make Health and Human Services (HHS) more efficient and save Medicare billions annually!

To learn more about why the NRLN supports **S. 1227** and advocates competitive bidding for drugs, please ask a member of your staff to contact me or Alyson Parker, the NRLN’s Executive Director in Washington, DC at 813-545-6792 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 be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President,

National Retiree Legislative Network

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