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

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February 10, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1501

Dear Chairman Grassley:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees in all 50 states represented by the National Retirees Legislative Network (NRLN), I am writing to request calling for a vote in the Committee on Finance on **S. 73, End Taxpayer Subsidies for Drug Ads Act**, that would deny federal tax deductions for advertising and promotional expenses for prescription drugs.

America's pharmaceutical industry spends more on advertising and promotions than it does on research and development. Advertising expenses by drug makers have more than quadrupled over the past two decades, rising from \$1.3 billion in 1997 to \$6 billion in 2016. In that same time period, advertising from drug companies has increased from 79,000 ads to 4.6 million ads, including 663,000 TV commercials.

It is outrageous that nearly one third of the growth in U.S. drug spending can be attributed to the increase in advertising for prescription drugs. Drug manufacturers should not be allowed to deduct advertising and promotional expenses from their federal taxes.

If you would like to learn more about why the NRLN supports **S. 73**, please let me know or ask a member of your staff to contact Alyson Parker, at [executivedirector@nrln.org](mailto:executivedirector@nrln.org) or call 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President  
National Retiree Legislative Network  
Phone: 972-722-5928  
Email: [president@nrln.org](mailto:president@nrln.org)