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

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March 7, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3006

Dear Chairman Pallone:

On behalf of over 2 million retirees and future retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network, I urge you to call for a vote in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on **H.R. 965, Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples (CREATES) Act**, that targets abusive delay tactics used by brand-name pharmaceutical companies to block market entry of more affordable generic drugs.

The first delay tactic addressed by the **CREATES Act** is when brand-name drug companies prevent potential generic competitors from obtaining samples of the branded product so the generic company cannot perform the testing necessary to show that its product is equivalent to the brand-name product, a prerequisite for FDA approval. The second delay tactic addressed by the **CREATES Act** occurs when brand-name manufacturers, whose products require a distribution safety protocol, refuse to allow generic competitors to participate in that safety protocol, again undermining the generic's ability to gain FDA approval.

The **CREATES Act** is intended to provide an efficient path for generic drug manufacturers to obtain relief so they can continue working to bring their lower-cost products to market. Making meaningful reforms to reduce the cost of prescription drugs should be a top priority for all members of Congress. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the **CREATES Act** would lower federal spending on prescription drugs by \$3.9 billion and research shows that the savings to patients and health care systems would save many billions of dollars more.

If you or your staff have questions about why the NRLN supports this bill important to America's seniors, please contact me or Alyson Parker, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC at 813-545-6792 or [executivedirector@nrln.org](mailto:executivedirector@nrln.org).

The NRLN's full Legislative Agenda and detailed whitepapers can be found at [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org). Your consideration on these issues would also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

President, National Retiree Legislative Network  
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