



the campaign for
SUSTAINABLE Rx PRICING
Transparency. Competition. Value.

June 20, 2016

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy, Senator Klobuchar, and Senator Lee:

On behalf of the Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing (CSRxP), I write to express our strong support for the Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples (“CREATES”) Act. Our diverse membership, which represents hospitals, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, health plans, patients, and employers, has seen first-hand the hefty burden of rising drug prices on American families, taxpayers, and our entire health care system. We appreciate your bipartisan leadership to advance legislation on this issue.

CSRxP is committed to increasing transparency, competition, and value in the prescription drug market. We applaud your commitment to combating anticompetitive behavior that blocks access to affordable generic drugs. Currently, drug companies can use a loophole in U.S. laws to deny samples of their branded drugs to generic manufacturers in order to keep generic companies from pursuing the necessary research to comply with FDA regulations and bring alternate products to market. This practice restricts competition in the market and often leaves patients with fewer choices for their medications. As a result, patients may be at the mercy of a single drug company for the medication they need to stay healthy, and that company is free to set the price for the medication indiscriminately. Such practices put a financial strain on patients and drive up health care expenses for everyone.

We welcome the bipartisan effort to close this loophole through the CREATES Act, which as you know comes at an important time. Voters, Republican and Democrat alike, have identified the price of prescription drugs as their number one health care concern, and they are asking for solutions to encourage more innovation and affordability in the prescription drug market. This bill is one step closer to that goal.

We hope the Senate Judiciary Committee move promptly to consider this legislation and begin a thoughtful debate on the issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me and the Campaign, should we be able to assist in these efforts.

Sincerely,

John Rother,
Executive Director
Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing (CSRxP)