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

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January 3, 2021

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 the more than 2 million retirees and future retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you re-introduce in the 117th Congress the **Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act**.

It is our hope that in 2021 the HR. 3 bill passed on December 12, 2019 will be passed in the House once again and the Senate will take up the bill. Or, the Senate will pass its own bill and both bills will go to a conference committee that will ultimately result in legislation to make prescription drugs more affordable.

These are the provisions the NRLN likes in the **Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act**:

- Cap Medicare recipients' out-of-pocket costs for medicines at \$2,000 a year.
- U.S. prices for drugs would be tied to a benchmark index of prices in other developed countries.
- Private health insurance plans would be able to receive Medicare's discounted prices.
- Medicare would be authorized to negotiate prices for 250 commonly used costly medications, using a formula based on lower prices paid in other economically advanced countries.
- Drugmakers that refuse to negotiate would be hit with steep sales taxes for the medication at issue.
- Require pharmaceutical manufacturers to pay rebates to Medicare if the price of their drugs increased faster than inflation.

Although the **Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act** would authorize Medicare to negotiate drug prices, NRLN requests that the removal of the prohibition on Medicare negotiating prescription drug prices and replace it with a competitive bidding mandate to be 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. Also, the NRLN believes there should be language in the bill to end pay-for-delay and other brand name drugmakers' tactics that keep generic drugs off the market and the importation of safe lower cost prescription drugs from Canada and other nations that meet Federal Drug Administration (FDA) safety standards.

Sincerely,

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