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

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December 7, 2021

The Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3308

Dear Senator Burr:

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 support calling for a vote in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on **S.2740, Promoting Readiness and Ensuring Proper API Reserves of Essential Medicines (PREPARE) Act of 2021.**

S.2740 would improve the resiliency of the U.S. pharmaceutical supply chain and fight shortages of essential drugs by:

- Requiring the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish and make public a list of essential generic medicines that are medically necessary to have available at all times;
- Creating a national stockpile of API for these essential generic medicines to further bolster U.S. emergency preparedness capacity;
- Establishing a plan to store, track, test, and convert API stored in the reserve into finished dosage form and strengthen U.S. capacity for API production; and
- Cutting red tape that could prevent a manufacturer from ramping up production in an emergency.

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) are essential ingredients in the manufacturing of any pharmaceutical product. China is the world's largest producer of APIs. America's dependence on China and other foreign suppliers for essential medicines and the ingredients to make those medicines is a national security risk.

If you would like to learn more about why the NRLN supports **S.2740**, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director, on her cell phone at 813-545-6792 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

Sincerely,

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