



601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Suite 900, South Building

Washington, D.C. 20004-2601

Tel: 202-220-3172 Toll-Free: 1-866-360-7197

Email: contact@nrln.org Website: www.nrln.org

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

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August 4, 2020

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Dear Senator Wyden:

The committees of the National Retiree Legislative Network that tracks bills in Congress have reviewed **S. 4199, Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2020**. Our CenturyLink, AT&T and other Oregon retirees appreciate your personal objectivity and balanced approach in tackling this policy issue and the more than 2 million NRLN members are eager to see legislation passed that will reduce the price of prescription drugs.

The NRLN supported **S. 2543, Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019**, which passed in the Senate Committee on Finance with a bi-partisan vote on September 25, 2019. On behalf of the NRLN members, I sent a letter on October 15, 2019 to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell requesting he hold a Senate vote on **S. 2543**, which, as you know, at that time was referred to as the Grassley/Wyden bill to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. We were deeply disappointed that **S. 2543** never reached the Senate floor for a vote.

During the process in the Committee on Finance, the NRLN would like to see added to **S. 4199** the removal of the prohibition on Medicare negotiating prescription drug prices and replace it with a competitive bidding mandate. Also, we believe there should be language in **S. 4199** to end pay-for-delay and other brand name drugmakers' tactics that keep generic drugs off the market.

We hope that there will soon be a vote in the Senate Committee on Finance on **S. 4199**. If **S. 4199** is passed by the Committee on Finance, the NRLN will again urge Majority Leader McConnell to bring the bill to a vote on the Senate floor.

The NRLN hopes **S. 4199** will be passed and go to a conference committee with **H.R. 3, Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act** and result in a compromise bill that both the House and Senate will pass and the President will sign.

NRLN members, as well as millions of other Americans, are very concerned whether a comprehensive bill to reduce the price of prescription drugs will be enacted. If no legislation is passed in 2020, the powerful pharmaceutical industry lobby in Washington wins again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Kadereit". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

Phone: 972-722-5928

Email: president@nrln.org