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December 5, 2023

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

Dear Chairman Wyden:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you call for votes in the Committee on Finance on the following two bills:

S.1250, Drug Price Transparency for Customers (DTC)

Act of 2023, would require price disclosures on advertisements for prescription drugs, in order to empower patients and reduce spending on medications. The Government Accountability Office recently released a report on the impact of direct-to-consumer advertising which found that prescription drugs advertised directly to consumers account for 58 percent of Medicare's spending on drugs.

Studies show that patients are more likely to ask their doctor, and ultimately receive a prescription, for a specific drug when they have seen ads for it. For these reasons, most countries have banned DTC prescription drug advertising—the United States and New Zealand are the only developed nations to permit this practice.

S.1491, Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas

Enhancement Act, would encourage pharmacists to offer health care services such as health and wellness screenings, immunizations and diabetes management by authorizing Medicare payments for those services where pharmacists are already licensed under state law to provide them. There is currently no way for pharmacists to receive Medicare reimbursement for providing them.

Licensed pharmacists should be compensated by Medicare to perform basic medical services so seniors can be saved taxing trips to far-flung doctors' offices.

If you would like to learn more about why NRLN supports these bills, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director in Washington, DC, at parkerstrategies@gmail.com or call 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

Email: bkad@sbcglobal.net Phone: 972-722-5928