

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Bobby Rush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

We are writing to express our support for H.R. 1499, the Protecting Consumer Access to Generic Drugs Act of 2019. The undersigned stakeholders share your commitment to promoting robust generic drug and biosimilar markets that will help reduce prescription drug costs for patients, payers, and taxpayers. We commend you for introducing this important legislation.

Brand and generic drugmakers often enter into agreements that delay the market launch of a generic drug in exchange for financial compensation from the brand company to the generic manufacturer. These settlements can delay for months or years patient access to generic drugs, which can be as much as 90 percent cheaper than the brand version. In recent years, there have also been a number of patent settlement agreements between biosimilar and biologic manufacturers delaying the introduction of lower-cost biosimilars onto the U.S. market.

The Protecting Consumer Access to Generic Drugs Act will promote competition by prohibiting anticompetitive agreements between brand and generic drugmakers. Importantly, the legislation also targets anticompetitive settlements between biologic and biosimilar manufacturers.

Spending on biologic drugs in the United States totaled more than \$120 billion in 2017, and approximately two-thirds of drug spending in Medicare Part B is on biologic drugs. With an expected cost discount of 15% to 40% less than originator products, biosimilars create a significant savings opportunity across the U.S. health care system. Enhancing their uptake by preventing anticompetitive settlements between biosimilar and biologic manufacturers is vital to reducing prescription drug costs for American families.

We applaud your commitment to increasing patient access to lower cost, life-saving generics biosimilars, and we look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation into law.

Sincerely,

Cigna  
Community Catalyst  
CVS Health  
Magellan Health  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)  
Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)  
Public Citizen