



**BlueCross BlueShield  
Association**

An Association of Independent  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans

**Justine Handelman**  
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July 26, 2017

The Honorable Tom Marino  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Cicilline  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Marino and Ranking Member Cicilline:

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) represents 36 locally-based, community-operated companies nationwide collectively covering more than 106 million Americans. We are pleased that the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law is holding a hearing on antitrust concerns in the prescription drug market. We write in support of your bill, H.R. 2212, the CREATES Act of 2017, as it will address some of the anti-competitive activity in this market.

BCBSA is committed to making sure people have timely access to safe, effective and affordable cutting-edge prescription medicines when they need them. Consumers expect health plans to provide them with access to lower cost generics, but that access is not possible if some drug manufacturers use tactics that delay entry of generic medicines. Currently, there are significant barriers that hinder patients' timely access to generic and biosimilar drugs.

The FDA has authority to address some of these practices that are limiting competition, but a legislative solution is necessary. BCBSA supports H.R. 2212 as this bill provides a safe, efficient and targeted pathway to end these abusive, anti-competitive practices.

We believe that promoting competition and consumer choice will make prescription medicines more affordable. BCBSA is committed to working with Congress on passage of H.R. 2212 and other market-based solutions to achieve this end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine Handelman".

Justine Handelman  
Senior Vice President  
Office of Policy and Representation