



November 02, 2023

The Honorable Ann Kuster
United States House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger
United States House of Representatives
167 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Kuster and Harshbarger:

AARP, which advocates for the more than 100 million Americans age 50 and over, is pleased to support the Medication Affordability and Patent Integrity Act (H.R. 5429). We applaud your bipartisan efforts to increase transparency and accountability for brand-name drug companies and to increase competition so consumers can have faster access to more affordable medicines.

Some drugmakers game the patent system by submitting only partial information to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or the Food and Drug Administration so they can extend their monopoly periods later by adding new patents down the road. Your legislation would crack down on this anti-competitive practice by requiring drug companies to certify that they are not withholding information from the Patent Office or the FDA for purposes of gaining marketing approval or patent protection. Banning this practice will help get generics and biosimilars on the market sooner, increasing access to safe, affordable prescription drugs and lower drug costs for consumers and taxpayers.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important bill and other measures to increase access to safe, affordable prescription drugs for all Americans. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Gidget Benitez on our Government Affairs team at gbenitez@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Bill Sweeney'.

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs