



The ERISA Industry Committee

Driven By and For Large Employers

701 8th Street NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20001

• (202) 789-1400

• www.eric.org

James Gelfand, Senior Vice President of Health Policy

April 09, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 House Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 House Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

As the Ways and Means Committee prepares to consider H.R. 2113, the “*Prescription Drug Sunshine, Transparency, Accountability and Reporting Act*” (“*STAR Act*”), The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) supports passage of the bill, and urges members of the Committee to vote “yes” if and when the legislation is called for a vote.

ERIC is the only national trade association that advocates exclusively for large employers on health, retirement, and compensation public policy issues on the federal, state, and local levels. ERIC supports the ability of its large employer members to tailor health, retirement, and compensation benefits for millions of employees, retirees, and their families. Our members provide comprehensive health benefits and pay the vast majority of health care costs incurred by plan beneficiaries – as such, they have a significant stake in, and deep commitment to, efforts to curb the unsustainable rising costs of prescription drugs.

As introduced, the *STAR Act* would:

- Ensure transparency in cases of significant cost increases, or very high launch prices, of prescription drugs (as per the *SPIKE Act*);
- Close a loophole in the *Physician Payments Sunshine Act* which failed to account for free “sample” drugs provided by prescription drug manufacturers to providers;
- Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to examine and report on drugs administered in hospital and other in-patient settings;
- Require reporting on aggregate drug cost and rebate information (as per the *C-THRU Act*); and
- Eliminate gaps in current prescription drug average sales price (ASP) reporting requirements.

These proposals are reasonable, bipartisan, and will advance the cause of empowering purchasers (such as ERIC member companies) and consumers with better information about drug costs, while improving incentives in the system. **As such, ERIC urges members to vote YES, and support passage of the *STAR Act*.** We look forward to working with the 116th Congress to advance this and other targeted bipartisan legislation to improve transparency, competition, and value in the health care system, especially as it pertains to prescription drugs.

Sincerely,

James Gelfand
Senior Vice President, Health Policy

ERIC is the only national association that advocates exclusively for large employers on health, retirement, and compensation public policies at the federal, state, and local levels.