



April 18, 2016

Dear U.S. House Agriculture & Appropriations Committee Members:

The National Physicians Alliance urges you to oppose the House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017 because of the inappropriate inclusion of the FDA generic drug labeling rule rider.

Section 747 of the proposed bill contains an improper and controversial policy rider that would prohibit the FDA from moving forward on a regulatory change that would improve the safety of prescription drugs labeling for consumers by improving generic drug safety labels. As you know, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed to revise its regulations to allow generic drug manufacturers to initiate safety updates to their products' labeling in November 2013.

We strongly support the FDA's generics labeling proposal. Allowing the generic manufacturers to initiate safety updates, as brand-name companies have done for 30 years, is essential to physicians, patients, and their family members, by providing access to better and more accurate information about the risks and benefits of medications. Patients and consumers deserve up-to-date information about the prescription drugs they use, including the most up-to-date safety warnings.

The FDA's generic drug labeling rule already has had the benefit of additional scrutiny as a result of policy riders during the FY15 appropriations cycle and the FDA should be able to conclude its work in this important area. We strongly urge your opposition to any agriculture appropriations legislation that includes Section 747, or similar language inhibiting the FDA Generics Labeling rule from moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Plymate, MD  
Co-Chair, NPA FDA Taskforce

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The National Physicians Alliance is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that offers a professional home to physicians across medical specialties. We create research and education programs that promote health and foster active engagement of physicians with their communities. The NPA accepts no funding from pharmaceutical or medical device companies.

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