

By: Representatives Boyd, G. McGill

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE THE INCREASES IN COST OF GENERIC PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS; AND TO URGE THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING GENERIC PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE THE INCREASES IN COST OF GENERIC PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS; AND TO URGE THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING GENERIC PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS.

WHEREAS, generic medications are prescription medications that are the same drug and strength as the more expensive brand name medication and that are produced by one or more companies after the expiration of the brand name medication's patent life; and

WHEREAS, generics medications have historically provided low cost prescription drug alternatives to brand name medications; and

WHEREAS, generic medications represent more than 80% of the prescription medications dispensed in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, since early 2013, generic pharmaceutical manufacturers have been dramatically increasing the price of their medications; and



WHEREAS, some of the medications that have been affected by price increase of more than 500% include: doxycycline, divalproex er, azetazolamide, prednisolone, ursodiol, amitriptyline, allopurinol, carbamazepine, nadolol, captopril, fluconazole, enalapril, and pravastatin among others; and

WHEREAS, these generic medications are used to treat a myriad of health conditions, including: hypertension, seizure disorders, headaches, depression, gout, bacterial infection, fungal infection, high cholesterol; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these uncontrolled increases, individual Arkansans, insurers and self-insured employers have experienced an increase in the cost of their prescription medications,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives:

(1) Encourages the United States Congress to continue its investigation into the dramatic increases in the costs of these medications;

(2) Urges the Food and Drug Administration to review potential onerous federal regulations that prevent new generic pharmaceutical manufacturers from obtaining timely approval of their generic medications; and

(3) Encourages the Food and Drug Administration to review existing federal regulations that may make it difficult for new generic pharmaceutical companies to enter the United States market, which reduces the total number of suppliers and may result in increased generic prescription medication costs for Arkansans.