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Media Contact:
Megan O’Leary
202.568.8986

HSCA STATEMENT ON SENATE HELP COMMITTEE HEARING ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Washington, DC (June 13, 2017) – Healthcare Supply Chain Association ([HSCA](#)) President and CEO Todd Ebert, R.Ph. today released the following statement in conjunction with “[The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How The Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay](#),” a hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions ([HELP](#)):

“The Healthcare Supply Chain Association applauds Senate HELP Committee Chair Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) for their leadership on the critical issue of reducing healthcare costs and for working to safeguard patient and provider access to treatments. HSCA and its members are committed to lowering costs and increasing competition and innovation in the healthcare marketplace.

“Although patients have long relied on generic drugs to reduce costs and increase access to essential medications, significant price spikes for some generic drugs have recently begun to jeopardize patient access to affordable healthcare. Price spikes often occur when a lack of competition among manufacturers allows high prices to go largely unchecked. Increasing the number of competitors for a given drug in the marketplace will help to prevent and mitigate future price spikes. The current backlog of abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has exacerbated the problem of price spikes. A three- or four-year wait time stifles the ability of manufacturers who want to introduce competition into the generic market.

“HSCA represents leading healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs), the sourcing and purchasing partners to American hospitals, long-term care facilities, surgery centers, clinics, and other healthcare providers. GPOs deliver critical cost savings that allow healthcare providers to focus on their core mission: providing first-class patient care.

“Among the commonsense policy solutions that HSCA supports is the “[Making Pharmaceutical Markets More Competitive Act](#)” (S. 1115), bipartisan legislation from Senators Collins (R-ME) and McCaskill (D-MO) that would allow the FDA to give priority review to new drug applications for products where there are three or fewer approved drug alternatives. Streamlining the process of bringing additional manufacturers to market will help safeguard patient and provider access to critical generic drugs.”

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About the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)

The Healthcare Supply Chain Association ([HSCA](#)) represents the nation’s leading healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs), which are critical cost-savings partners to America’s hospitals, nursing

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homes, nursing home pharmacies, clinics, home healthcare providers and surgery centers. GPOs deliver billions in savings annually to healthcare providers, Medicare and Medicaid, and taxpayers. HSCA and its member GPOs are committed to delivering the best products at the best value to healthcare providers, to increasing competition and innovation in the market, and to being supply chain leaders in transparency and accountability. For more information, visit www.supplychainassociation.org. Follow HSCA on Twitter [@HSCA](https://twitter.com/HSCA).

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