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**CCPM Urges Congress to Pass Medicare Reform
With Strong Generic Drug Access Provisions to Contain Costs**

(WASHINGTON) – The Coalition for a Competitive Pharmaceutical Market (CCPM) today called on Congress to pass the Medicare prescription drug benefit which includes strong generic access measures to close certain loopholes in the Hatch-Waxman Act that improperly delay consumer access to affordable generic drugs.

“The generic drug access provisions agreed upon by the conference are critical cost-containment measures in the Medicare reform legislation and will provide much-needed relief to *all* American consumers, employers, insurers and others facing unsustainable, double-digit increases in prescription drug costs,” said CCPM Chair Amy Plaster.

“These provisions will prevent abuse of tactics that block generic competition, such as multiple 30-month stays, and provide a mechanism for resolving patent disputes in a timely fashion through a declaratory judgment action,” Ms. Plaster said. “CCPM applauds the conferees for including these measures that close unintended loopholes and restore much-needed predictability to the American health care system.”

Generic drugs represent significant value for private and public purchasers seeking market-driven solutions to skyrocketing health care costs. Generics account for one out of every two prescriptions dispensed in the United States, but less than 8% of all dollars spent on prescription drugs, reducing the nation’s health care costs. Generics provide the same health benefits as brand-name drugs and make American health care more affordable.

CCPM pledges to work with the FDA, the Administration, and the Congress to advance our common goal of making health care more affordable for all Americans by providing consumers with timely access to generic pharmaceuticals.

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The Coalition for a Competitive Pharmaceutical Market (CCPM) is an organization of employers, insurers, generic drug manufacturers and others committed to improving consumer access to high quality generic drugs and restoring a vigorous, competitive prescription drug market. CCPM supports legislation to eliminate legal barriers to timely access to affordable, equally effective generic drugs.