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Generic Access Provisions a Victory for Consumers
GPhA Urges House, Senate Approval of the Medicare Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 18, 2003 – The Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA) today called the Medicare Conference compromise on generic drugs a tremendous victory for all consumers that will ensure timely access to affordable pharmaceuticals. GPhA urges the members of the House and Senate to swiftly approve the Medicare Bill — which includes substantial improvements in generic access — in order to deliver immediate benefits to all American consumers.

“We applaud Congress for taking unprecedented action to ensure that all American consumers have timely access to affordable pharmaceuticals,” said Kathleen Jaeger, President and CEO of GPhA. “The House and Senate conferees have met the challenge of eliminating some of the most serious barriers to generic competition by closing loopholes that have unnecessarily delayed the timely introduction of affordable pharmaceuticals — and American consumers, young and old alike, will be the winners.”

“GPhA believes that the compromise on generics will benefit all consumers who have come to depend upon affordable pharmaceuticals to help them live longer, healthier, more productive lives,” said Ms. Jaeger. The conference report to accompany H.R. 1 contains a number of pro-consumer provisions that ensure the timely resolution of patent disputes, prevent delays of generic drug approvals, and solidify the incentive for challenges of weak or invalid patents. “GPhA and its members pledge to support the immediate passage of the Medicare Conference Report, which includes strong generic access provisions,” Ms. Jaeger said.

America’s generic pharmaceutical industry saves consumers nearly \$100 billion each year in pharmaceutical costs, and accounts for only eight cents of every dollar spent on prescription drugs. Streamlining the introduction of generic pharmaceuticals and increasing timely access to generic medicines will deliver immediate and substantial additional savings to all consumers.

GPhA represents the manufacturers and distributors of finished generic pharmaceuticals, manufacturers and distributors of bulk active pharmaceutical chemicals, and suppliers of other goods and services to the generic drug industry. For further information, please contact GPhA at 703-647-2480, or visit our web site at www.gphaonline.org.

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