



**YOLO HEALTHY
AGING ALLIANCE**

The Unified Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County

Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair of Senate Appropriations
Committee State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 824 (Wood): Business: Preserving Access to Affordable Drugs

Dear Senator Portantino,

The Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, a local non-profit that works to enhance the well-being of older adults in Yolo County, strongly supports enactment of AB 824, Business. Preserving Access to Affordable Drugs.

AB 824 establishes certain rules that judges and fact-finders must follow in deciding which drug patent settlement or "pay-for-delay" agreements are anti-competitive and therefore in violation of California's Cartwright Act. Pay-for-delay agreements became a problem after 1984 when Congress passed the Hatch-Waxman Act, creating a new process for generic drug manufacturers to challenge the patents of brand-name drug manufacturers and enter the market sooner. Its unintended consequence was creating an incentive for the two companies to settle out-of-court in an agreement that provided both with extra profits by agreeing on an entry date for the generic later than was reasonable considering the strength of the patents in question.

Many Yolo County older adults struggle to make ends meet having to sometimes choose between medications and food. We hear from seniors and their caregivers their need to access appropriate, affordable medications to allow them to stay healthy. Prices of generic drugs are significantly lower than brand name drugs – sometimes as much as 85% lower. Access to generic medications is an important piece of making a budget work for seniors on a fixed income. We urge your vote of yes on AB 824.

Sincerely,


Jipa Provenza
Chair

Cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee Assembly Member Wood & Assembly Member Melendez;
Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry and McCarty, Senators Dodd and Pan

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance - The Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County
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