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COMMITTEE ON
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November 17, 2011

Jon Leibowitz
Commissioner
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Commissioner Leibowitz,

I was alarmed to read recent press accounts that Pfizer has made agreements with several of the nation's largest pharmacy benefit companies to block or delay prescriptions for a generic version of Lipitor for up to six months. As you know, Pfizer's patent for the drug expires on November 30th and there are two drug makers that are prepared to start offering a generic version of the drug on December 1st. There are multiple reports that Medco Health Solutions, Catalyst Rx and Express Scripts Inc. have struck deals with Pfizer not to dispense the generic drug, enabling Pfizer to retain much of the market that they would otherwise lose with the expiration of their patent protection. Deals like this clearly benefit the drug company and the pharmacy benefit managers at the great expense of consumers, employers and taxpayers. At a time when we should be doing more to reduce the rising costs of prescription drugs, these types of practices should be prohibited.

Drug companies and pharmacy benefit companies must be pushed to do the right thing. I urge you to take action against Pfizer and the pharmacy benefit companies they are colluding with to ensure that consumers have access to lower cost drugs.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress