

# Senators push for quicker generic drug access

July 23 2013, by Henry C. Jackson

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(AP)—Two senators want to do away with the agreements that pharmaceutical companies make with one another to keep lower-priced generic copies of brand-name drugs off the market.

Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Republican Charles Grassley of Iowa say such "pay-for-delay" deals force consumers to pay higher prices for critical drugs. Their bill would make such agreements illegal unless the companies can prove in court that they aren't anti-competitive.

Grassley says Congress, in his words, "should be doing all we can to see that the American consumer has access to lower-priced drugs as soon as possible."

Representatives of the [pharmaceutical industry](#) tell a Senate antitrust subcommittee chaired by Klobuchar that the agreements sometimes shorten the time for [generic drugs](#) to reach the market, particularly in patent disputes.

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