



## THE PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE MEDICINES LETTER TO CONGRESS – FEBRUARY 28, 2017

The [Partnership for Safe Medicines](#) (PSM) today sent a letter to all members of Congress urging them to continue protecting Americans and stand against efforts that would allow substandard and even dangerous counterfeit medicines to flow freely across U.S. borders and into the hands of the American people. The letter, signed by nearly 170 groups, is reprinted in full below.

February 28, 2017

Dear Congress,

As a coalition whose outreach and operations involve educating health care workers and patients in all fifty states, and whose membership is comprised of more than 60 organizations committed to the safety of prescription drugs and protecting U.S. consumers against counterfeit, substandard or otherwise unsafe medicines, the Partnership for Safe Medicines, its members and other interested stakeholders are deeply concerned that importation proposals will undermine America's existing and proposed drug safety protocols.

Whether offered broadly or for a narrow set of medications, there's never a good time to sacrifice safety. No patient is served well by a drug from an unknown source, that has been stored under unknown conditions, and which contains unknown ingredients because it passed through unlicensed, foreign middlemen who operate beyond U.S. law.

Drug importation advocates believe that drugs purchased from countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom are safe because of their strict health regulations. Unfortunately, this is simply not true. For example, many customers of "Canadian pharmacies" report getting their shipments straight from Pakistan, India, and Turkey. Additionally, a large share of medicines that flow through Canada are counterfeit, and while it may seem safe to import medicines from developed countries like Canada and Western Europe, those medicines may have originated from countries all over the world.

Canadian law does not prohibit the transshipment of drugs from any country – including from countries with low manufacturing standards – into Canada and then on to the U.S. In fact, Canadian law explicitly states that the Canadian equivalent to the FDA does not have to inspect drugs for export.

Moreover, Canadian pharmacists aren't allowed to dispense to Americans without a Canadian physician's prescription.

Proposals allowing importation would undermine nearly two decades of drug safety policy. Large volume importation of prescription drugs could be permitted under current law only if the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary was willing to certify that imported drugs "pose no additional risk to the public's health and safety, and result in a significant reduction in the cost of covered products to the American consumer." Recent HHS Secretaries have not been willing to certify such large scale importation as of no significant risk to the public health or that any potential cost savings would outweigh the resources that would be required to ensure the safety and efficacy of any imported products. We urge you to focus on protecting the nation's drug supply to maintain access to safe medicines for US patients.

With very best regards,

Marv Shepherd, PhD  
President, Partnership for Safe Medicines  
Professor Emeritus  
College of Pharmacy  
University of Texas  
Austin, TX 78712

## National Organization Signatories

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy  
Action Cystic Fibrosis  
Advocates for Responsible Care  
Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies (ASOP Global)  
Alliance for the Adoption of Innovations in Medicine (Aimed Alliance)  
Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA)  
American Liver Foundation  
American Pharmacists Association  
Association for Accessible Medicines, formerly GPhA  
CancerCare  
Caregiver Action Network  
Center for Healthcare Innovation  
Center for Medicine in the Public Interest  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
Community Access National Network  
COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Foundation  
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste  
Easterseals  
Healthcare Distribution Alliance  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
HealthHIV  
International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition  
International Federation of Autoimmune and Autoinflammatory Diseases With Arthritis As a Major Component  
Kidney Cancer Association  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
Men's Health Network  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators  
National Association of Hepatitis Task Forces  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Grange  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Medical Association  
National Minority Quality Forum  
National Retail Federation  
NeedyMeds  
PCa (Prostate Cancer) Blue Inc.  
Pharmaceutical Industry Labor Management Association  
Pharmaceutical Security Institute  
Prostate Conditions Education Council  
RetireSafe  
Salud USA  
The AIDS Institute  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Latino Coalition  
The Myositis Association

The National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce  
The Veterans Health Council  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Wellness and Education Community Action Health Network (WECAHN)

#### **State and Local Group Signatories**

AIDS Connecticut  
AIS Drug Assistance Programs Advocacy Association  
Alabama Pharmacy Association  
American Liver Foundation- Heartland Division  
American Liver Foundation, Pacific Coast Division  
Arizona Pharmacy Association  
Autoimmune Advocacy Alliance  
AXIS Pharmacy Northwest  
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association  
BioForward  
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce  
California Hepatitis C Task Force  
Caring Ambassadors Program  
Center for Healthcare Services  
Centro de mi Salud  
Citrus Council, National Kidney Foundation of Florida Inc  
Colorado BioScience Association  
Community Health Action Network  
Community Health Charities of Nebraska  
Community Pharmacies  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families  
Delaware HIV Consortium  
Des Moines WomenHeart  
Dia de la Mujer Latina  
DPClinical INC  
Easter Seals Iowa  
Easter Seals Massachusetts  
Easter Seals Nebraska  
Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut  
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Frannie Peabody Center  
H.O.P.E.(Hepatitis,Organ Transplant,Patient,Education)  
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey  
HealthyWomen  
Hemophilia Alliance of Maine  
Illinois Pharmacists Association  
Iowa Bio  
Iowa State Grange  
Kentucky Life Science Council  
Kentucky Pharmacists Association  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
Lupus Foundation New England  
Lupus Foundation of Florida  
Maine Pharmacy Association  
MANA, A National Latina Organization  
Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association  
Meals on Wheels Durham  
Meals on Wheels North Carolina

Medical Oncology Association of Southern California, Inc. (MOASC)  
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce  
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)  
Michigan Osteopathic Association  
Michigan Pharmacists Association  
Minnesota Pharmacists Association  
Missouri Pharmacy Association  
Montana Pharmacy Association  
National Alliance on Mental Illness – New Mexico  
National Alliance on Mental Illness – Texas  
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Washington  
National Hemophilia Foundation Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter  
Nebraska Pharmacists Association  
New Jersey Mayors Committee on Life Sciences  
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (NMBio)  
New Mexico Pharmacists Association  
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists  
North Carolina Biosciences Organization  
North Dakota Pharmacists Association  
North Dakota Pharmacy Service Corporation  
Northern Virginia (NOVA) ScriptsCentral  
Ohio Pharmacists Association  
Oklahoma Pharmacists Association  
One in Four Chronic Health  
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association  
Project ReDirect DC  
Psychosocial Rehabilitation Association of New Mexico  
Rio Grande Valley Diabetes Association  
Scleroderma Foundation Washington Evergreen Chapter  
Seniors United  
Sisters Network Inc  
South Carolina Biotechnology Industry Organization (SCBIO)  
South Carolina Pharmacy Association  
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education  
Survivors Cancer Action Network Alabama  
Tennessee Men's Health Network  
Tennessee Pharmacists Association  
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute  
Texas Life Sciences Collaboration Center  
Texas Pharmacy Association  
TexHealth Central Texas  
The Kim Foundation  
The Senior Citizens Council of Greater Augusta and the CSRA, Georgia, Inc  
Utah Pharmacy Association  
Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness  
Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota  
Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation  
Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Visiting Nurse Association of Pottawattamie County  
Visiting Nurse Association of the Midlands  
Washington State Pharmacy Association  
Wellness and Education Community Action Health Network (WECAHN)  
West Virginia Pharmacists Association  
Wisconsin Rheumatology Association  
Wisconsin State Grange

Wound Care Clinic – ESU  
Wyoming Epilepsy Association



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