

Submitted via email: Solicitation.questions@ahca.myflorida.com

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Ms. Crystal Demott
Procurement Director
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Ms. Demott:

American Senior Alliance (AmSA) is a not-for-profit organization that brings together our nation's senior citizens to defend their values and to protect the rights and services they've earned. Through strong and targeted advocacy, AmSA works every day to preserve the financial resources of our seniors and keep dollars in their wallet.

Our 50-plus population needs a voice that is truly looking out for their best interests, as opposed to organizations that simply want to sell them insurance, cellular phone plans, vacations, or the most popular product of the day.

Drug prices are a major concern for senior citizens, but we cannot jeopardize the life of an older American by taking shortcuts and appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Request for Information 003-18/19. The United States is the gold standard when it comes to regulating the safety of our medicine supply. Importing medicines from countries that do not have our same strong standards could taint our medicine supply.

Without proper Food and Drug Administration oversight and enforcement of laws designed to protect patient safety—which this plan would undermine—there is increased potential for counterfeit or adulterated products to infiltrate the U.S. pharmaceutical supply chain, with life-threatening consequences.

FDA leadership and are concerned about product safety and the likelihood of counterfeit medications – in fact the former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has gone so far to say, “The drug importation scheme contemplated by Florida is especially ill advised when considered against that state's long history of being home to importation 'front groups' supplying drugs of troubling origin, quality, and legitimacy.”

Unfortunately, Canadian suppliers cannot comply with the U.S. Track and Trace system, and can't be sanctioned for failing to do so. Canada does not have a closed-

loop supply chain tracking system to integrate with the U.S. Track and Trace system. Foreign suppliers that supply incorrect information to the Track and Trace system will face no legal sanction because the State of Florida has no regulatory authority over them. Please keep this in mind as you work to identify vendor criteria and identify a vendor.

We all want to ensure lower out-of-pocket costs for consumers on their medications, and we lean on you to ensure intense scrutiny is placed on any potential vendor to ensure the safety and quality of medications that are seniors are accustomed to today.

Respectfully,

Conwell Hooper
Executive Director
American Senior Alliance