

From: DHHS.Rulemaking.Comments@informe.org
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To: Garratt-Reed, Megan [REDACTED] Kingsbury, Jill [REDACTED]



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The following comment was submitted in regards to Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program

Name: John Adams
Title: Board Chair
Organization: Best Medicines Coalition of Canada
Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Toronto, Ontario M4V 1Z6 Canada

Comments:

I volunteer as chair of the Best Medicines Coalition of Canada with 28 patient organizations as members. Together we represent millions of Canadian patients. BMC's mission is to help ensure that Canadians have access to medicines that are safe and effective.

In Canada, we appreciate America's bold sense of confidence and pride in self-reliance. That's why it is disorienting to witness politicians from both parties in Maine and elsewhere looking to my country to help make your medicines more affordable. We would love to help if we could. But we cannot. Please let me explain.

Even though we're your neighbour, friend and ally, it's safe to say that most of us hope that proposals to import from Canada bulk quantities of medicines never get off the ground.

For many Canadians, this is a matter of personal importance, but it starts with arithmetic. Our nation of 38 million people does not have the pharmaceutical supply for your 329 million citizens. We're already experiencing drug shortages. According to our regulator, Health Canada, there are as many as 2,000 medications in short supply. That is 2,000 out of 13,000 approved medicines for human use.

We could give you all of our medicines and we would suffer and die prematurely. If we did, there would still be no benefit for eight of your every nine Americans.

Canadians are known for our generosity and affection for our American neighbours. If it were within our wherewithal to share our prescription drug supply with you, we would certainly do so. We cannot ramp up production because most of our medicines are made outside Canada. Canada and Canadians are not responsible for US drug prices. Your drug prices need a made-in-America solution. Looking to you to be self-reliant and deal with this made-in-America problem of drug prices, Thanks for your consideration