

**Recently, conversations and debate about drug importation has reached a fever pitch. Partnership For Safe Medicines' many coalition members want Congress to know about our concerns for the safety of American patients. The secure American drug supply chain protects American consumers from dangerous counterfeit, substandard and unsafe medicines. Any effort designed to bypass FDA controls tears open the safe, closed supply chain and exposes U.S. patients to serious risk.**

December 1, 2015

Dear Senator,

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, we 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. There is no regulation for products trans-shipped through "safe" countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom and thus, Americans would be put at great risk.

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 make this certification of "no risk." We urge you to focus on creating substantive programs that protect the nation's drug supply to maintain access to safe medicines.

With very best regards,

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Pharmaeconomics, University of Texas School of Pharmacy

Thomas T. Kubic President & CEO, Pharmaceutical Security Institute Deputy Assistant  
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#### Additional signers

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