

January 26, 2007

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Senate Majority Whip
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510

OPEN LETTER

The undersigned organizations, representing Canadian pharmacists and patients, are extremely concerned by the introduction in both houses of Congress of the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act of 2007.

This legislative proposal poses an imminent and serious threat to the security and integrity of Canada's drug supply, and a genuine threat to the health of Canadians. Of equal importance, this legislation represents a threat to American patients, by allowing relinquishment of necessary community-based medication monitoring and management and increasing risks from potential counterfeit drugs.

Allowing bulk prescription drug imports would not significantly reduce U.S. prescription prices for very long. Even a recent University of Texas study concluded, based on a worst-case scenario, that Canada's stocks of prescription drugs would amount to about a 38-day supply for the United States (assuming all U.S. medications were Canadian-sourced). Once U.S. demand depletes Canadian stocks, prices will almost certainly rise, narrowing or possibly even eliminating the difference between U.S. and Canadian pharmaceutical prices.

More broadly, we urge Congress to consider the impacts this legislation would have on America's relations with Canada.

There is no long-term advantage to be gained in raiding Canada's regulated market, and the possibility exists that the Canadian Parliament would move to ban prescription drug exports to the United States.

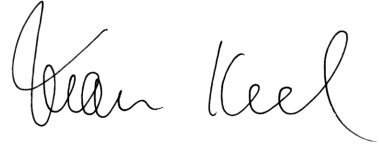
As you will see in the attached joint declaration, Canadian organizations representing pharmacists, distributors and patient groups have called on the Canadian government to enact an immediate ban on both bulk and retail exports of prescription medicine before the security of Canada's drug supply is put at risk.

In our view, Congress should devote its attention to the U.S. marketplace, where solutions to pricing issues should be found.

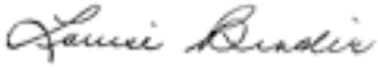
Yours sincerely,



Executive Director
Canadian Pharmacists Association



CEO
Ontario Pharmacists Association



Chair
Best Medicines Coalition

Enclosures : 1