

Concerns for Patient Safety and Counterfeits with Drug Importation

HB1441 – Representative Anna Moeller, D-Elgin

Please Vote No!

HB1441: Creates the Wholesale Importation of Prescription Drugs Act, which allows participating pharmacies to purchase Canadian drugs from the state without FDA manufacturing safeguards.

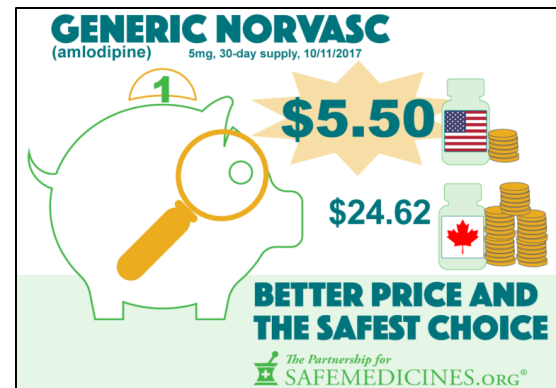
Background:

- Currently, there are no states that have an active drug importation program.
- Through an extensive safety net of federal and state laws, the US ensures prescription drugs are manufactured, stored, shipped, dispensed, and used in a safe manner. Importing medications from foreign suppliers undermines these processes.²
- The FDA has repeatedly cautioned against the risk to patient safety posed by the importation of prescription medications.²

10% of drugs worldwide are counterfeit.¹

Why we should care:

- Introducing different looking pharmaceutical medications, from foreign sources into the US, may confuse patients and healthcare professionals – as well as having different packaging, indications for use, and dosage forms.³
- **Vermont is the only state to have passed a drug importation program, but no data has been produced from the program, since the program is not active until January 1, 2020.**³
- Vermont's Agency of Human Services determined that a compliant drug importation program will require substantial upfront investment and appropriations.... that may outweigh the proposed savings.⁸
- HB1441 does NOT mention the regulation of biologics or biosimilars, which require a much higher attention to detail than other chemically compounded medications.
- Many Canadian pharmacists, wholesalers, healthcare regulators, and economist are opposed, as it will cause a depletion of Canadian drug supply in the short-term.^{4,5}
- Relying on Canadian manufacturers would lead to shortages within Canada, forcing increased manufacturing and importation, which will lead to increased medication costs in the future.⁶
- Drug shortages in Canada are as frequent there as in the United States.⁶



Canadian importation does not address the root cause of high domestic drug prices and the manipulative practices of middle men Pharmacy Benefit Managers on prescription drug costs and the increase in *pharmacy deserts*.



Vote No on HB1441!



References:

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4. HHS Task Force Report citing Letter from Diane C. Gorman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Canada, to Richard H. Carmona, U.S. Surgeon General, pg. 60-61. June 1, 2004.
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