



CAMPAIGN
FOR PERSONAL
PRESCRIPTION
IMPORTATION

Prescription Importation Update

Safe and Affordable. Now.

Nurses & Health Officials Leading on Prescription Importation - CPPI May 2023 E-News

* * * * *

[Nurses at the Forefront of Patient Care Advocate for Prescription Importation](#)



WASHINGTON, D.C. – This National Nurses Month the [Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation \(CPPI\)](#) would like to recognize and extend our appreciation for America's 4.2 million nurses at the forefront of patient care and advocacy. Being at the forefront of patient care, nurses recognize that a critical need is access to safe, affordable daily prescription medications. Fortunately, there is a solution that many nurses are advocating for: prescription importation from safe, licensed Canadian pharmacies.

On Tuesday, May 16 at 7:30 pm. [NNU President Nancy Hagans, RN](#), will be speaking at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center and scores of nurses will be in attendance. “Every day nurses see patients who delay lifesaving health care or can’t afford their medications,” says Hagans.

In 2022 nurses rallied on Capitol Hill with a statement from [National Nurses United](#) calling on Congress to support, “The Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act (S. 920 and H.R. 2181), which permits the United States to import prescription medicines from other countries that meet our standards — a common-sense method for lowering prices.” This legislation would instruct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue regulations allowing wholesalers, licensed U.S. pharmacies, and individuals to import qualifying prescription drugs manufactured at FDA-inspected facilities from licensed Canadian sellers.

“We are so proud of and thankful for the work that nurses do fighting and advocating for patients every day,” says Jack Pfeiffer, Executive Director of the Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation. “Nurses’ advocacy on personal prescription importation is imperative in the fight to ensure Americans access to affordable prescription medications. Now we need Congress to deliver on the Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act.”

[Millions of Americans](#) already import prescription medications from abroad due to drug affordability, and the need is only increasing. The majority of people importing their medications tend to be older Americans, often living on fixed incomes. They rely on international pharmacies for prescription medications such as ELIQUIS® and XARELTO® to treat and prevent blood clots and strokes.

There is vast public support for prescription importation with [78% of KFF poll respondents supporting the purchase of prescription drugs from licensed Canadian pharmacies](#). The Biden and Trump administrations, as well as members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, have expressed support for such efforts.

Nurses see firsthand the impact of high drug prices on their patients, that is why they have been at the forefront of this fight.

Malinda Markowitz R.N., a co-president of the 100,000 member California Nurses Association/National Nurses United, and Dahlia Tayag R.N., wrote the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#), “As nurses, we see families who can’t afford the medications they or their children need, or they have to give up other basic necessities. It’s heartbreaking and it’s unconscionable.”

“Nurses understand the impact that high drug prices have on American patients, and they know that personal prescription importation is an immediate solution that can help to alleviate this burden,” reiterates Pfeiffer.

* * * * *

[Health Experts Agree, Rx Importation Should Be More Available to Americans](#)

Apr 27, 2023

The American public has long supported prescription importation from Canada as a solution to high drug costs in the U.S. A [2019 Kaiser Family Foundation polling](#) found 78% of the public favors allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from licensed Canadian pharmacies. This proposal has broad support across party lines – 75% of Democrats, 82% of Independents, and 75% of Republicans. Millions of Americans already depend on personal prescription importation for affordable access to safe medications. According to the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 8 percent of American adults – 19 million people – say they or someone in their household had imported a drug at some point to get a lower price. So what do health experts say about prescription importation?

Despite the passage of legislation in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act to lower drug prices, there remains a high demand among Americans for more affordable prescriptions, with as many as [37% recently reporting](#) skipping medications due to costs.



On March 23, 2023, the Senate held a hearing to investigate the persistent high costs of medications and vaccines in the United States, during which health policy expert [Craig Garthwaite Phd.](#), encouraged “Congress and regulators to consider a broader system of importation across developed countries with similar safety and regulatory systems.”

Garthwaite, a professor of Strategy Herman Smith Research Professor in Hospital and Health Services Management Director of Program on Healthcare at Kellogg (HCAK) Kellogg School of

Management Northwestern University, has provided expert testimony to Congress on a number of occasions, but he is not the first health expert to encourage Congress to expand prescription importation to improve American access to medications.

[Dr. Aaron Kesselheim](#), a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, has testified before Congress, “Patients in the U.S. should have access to safe, effective, and affordable medications, regardless of where they are manufactured or distributed.”

[Dr. Peter Bach](#), director of the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, has said, “Many of the medications sold in the United States are actually manufactured in the same facilities that produce drugs for foreign countries. These drugs are subjected to the same safety and quality controls, and importing them would not compromise patient safety.”

A report from the FDA Center Drug Evaluation and Research, "[Quality Testing of Difficult-to-Make Prescription Pharmaceutical Products Marketed in the U.S.](#)," authored in part by Dr. Janet Woodcock, the former Acting FDA Administrator, investigated 252 drugs made in the US, Canada and other countries. The report found that all samples met U.S. FDA standards for dosage uniformity and dissolution, and further that the U.S. performance was below average.

[A Harvard report](#), by Dr. Niteesh K. Choudhry, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, finds that, in wealthier countries with active regulatory systems like Canada, drug safety can be adequately ensured, and brand-name products are usually less expensive than in the United States.

In 2018 then-FDA [commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb](#) stated that “Importation of drugs from lower-cost countries could be an important lever to lower the cost of medicines for Americans.” [CPPI drug cost comparisons](#) show that Americans save 50 to 90% on leading brand-name prescription drugs from licensed Canadian pharmacies compared to the best US pharmacy prices.

Roger Bate, a health economist with the [American Enterprise Institute](#) who has written several books on counterfeit medications, says “Buying medicines over the web can be risky, but purchasing prescriptions from credentialed online pharmacies can be done safely. Price controls in Canada and Europe allow their medicines to be far cheaper than in the US. US patients without adequate insurance should be allowed to import cheaper medicines.”

Bate has warned that “Industry pressure and the opioid crisis are making it harder for importation to occur: Credentialing organizations cannot advertise, payment organizations are restricting users, and shippers are impounding products.”

In 2022 CPPI was forced to mount a campaign to stop the DRUGS Act, legislation that was backed by BigPharma front groups under the false claim that it would protect Americans from opioids crossing the border. Americans from across the country who depend on prescription importation for critical daily medications wrote over 50,000 letters to Congress demanding personal prescription importation be protected.

Many experts funded or backed by pharmaceutical companies have cast strawman arguments against prescription importation, but independent health experts and millions of Americans agree that prescription importation from safe licensed pharmacies in countries like Canada can save Americans money and ensure access to critical medications at affordable prices.





* * * * *

[Prescription Drugs Prices 50-90% Cheaper from Canada than Leading U.S. Pharmacy Prices](#)



A new April price comparison of the most sought-after brand-name prescription drugs reveals that average Canadian drug prices are 54% to 90% cheaper than leading U.S. pharmacy prices. The Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation (CPPI) analysis compares prices at leading U.S. pharmacy competitors including AmazonPharmacy, CVS, GoodRx, and Walgreens against [online Canadian pharmacies](#).

According to a [poll released in March 2023 by YouGov America](#), 37 percent or 123 million Americans have skipped filling a prescription due to costs.

“54 to 90 percent savings on drug prices at online Canadian pharmacies can literally mean life or death for millions of Americans. While the Inflation Reduction Act promises lower prices in the future on a few prescription medications, Americans who need access to critical daily medications now are turning to personal prescription importation” says Jack Pfeiffer, Executive Director of CPPI. “Thousands of Americans use licensed Canadian pharmacies annually, to purchase their daily prescription medications at affordable prices. We believe that all Americans have a right to affordable medications.”

Drug Prices: U.S. VS Canada	 GoodRx			
Jublia: Antifungal	\$1430.00	\$1522.28	\$137.98	90%
Januvia: Type 2 Diabetes	\$533.50	\$558.80	\$106.88	80%
Farxiga: Diabetes	\$551.57	\$491.60	\$123.80	78%
Flovent Diskus: Asthma	\$277.19	\$252.14	\$56.14	78%
Spiriva: COPD	\$499.67	\$522.80	\$131.98	74%
Myrbetriq: Overactive Bladder	\$393.57	\$344.90	\$102.74	70%
Eliquis: Cholesterol	\$546.53	\$572.90	\$167.98	69%
Xarelto: Blood thinner	\$1512.90	\$1661.00	\$471.38	69%
Trintellix: Antidepressant	\$439.16	\$388.40	\$164.62	63%
Epipen: Anaphylaxis	\$592.56	\$621.28	\$283.18	54%

Prices obtained April 2023. U.S. Cash price for a 30-day supply calculated using the lowest after-coupon discount price of pharmacies listed on GoodRx.com for the United States. Canadian mail order prescription pricing calculated using the average price of pharmacies certified by Canadian International Pharmacy Association (CIPA.com). Canadian product pricing is for Health Canada approved brand name products, dispensed by a pharmacy licensed in Canada.

HOW TO SAVE ON Rx SAFELY

[Purchasing prescription medications for importation](#) from licensed and certified online Canadian pharmacies is safe and easy. Annually, Americans receive over 1 million prescriptions from online Canadian pharmacies. For decades, [FDA guidance](#) has helped people safely import medications. Online pharmacies recommended by CPPI like those certified by the [Canadian International Pharmacy Association \(CIPA\)](#) report a [100% perfect safety record](#) while serving millions of American customers since 2002.

SAVINGS

[CPPI 2022 survey data](#) shows that Americans importing prescription drugs save an average of \$312 a month (\$3,744 a year) on medication from licensed Canadian pharmacies. 95% of respondents cited the high cost of prescription drugs in the U.S. as the primary reason for ordering from licensed online Canadian pharmacies. For years, CPPI tracking has shown that Canadian drug prices offer savings on leading name-brand prescription drugs of over 50%.

* * * * *

5 Quick Ways You Can Take Action:

1. Let Congress know how this issue impacts you [HERE](#)
2. Sign up to receive CPPI communications [HERE](#)



3. Share your story to help inform decision makers on the real impact of high drug prices [HERE](#)
4. Join our Action Committee and get more involved by emailing us at info@personalimportation.org
5. Follow us on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#) so you can see the latest news on this important issue

* * * * *

About the Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation

CPPI is a national nonprofit patient advocacy organization that fights for Americans' access to safe, affordable prescription medications from Canada for personal use. Tens of millions of Americans – especially the elderly and others on fixed incomes – struggle to pay the extremely high price of prescription medications in the U.S. We are here to be their voice.

Millions of Americans use licensed Canadian pharmacies annually, to purchase their daily prescription medications at an affordable price. We believe that all Americans have a right to affordable medications. It is time to change the current U.S. policy on this issue to provide immediate access to life-saving medications, taken daily for chronic health conditions, at affordable prices.

###

Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation

1220 L Street NW

Suite 100

Washington, DC 20005

<https://personalimportation.org>

202-765-3290

info@personalimportation.org

