



CAMPAIGN
FOR PERSONAL
PRESCRIPTION
IMPORTATION

Newsletter: April 2019

We are thrilled to share a new series of videos with you on the realities of personal prescription importation! After viewing, we would love to get your thoughts and hear your personal stories, please email us at info@personalimportation.org.

We encourage you to share these videos with friends and family members who you believe may be struggling with access to safe and affordable medications or who may be interested in fighting for the rights of all Americans.

Access to prescription drugs is a right, not a privilege!

Link to videos: <https://personalimportation.org/video-series-stand-up-for-personal-prescription-importation/>

April Question of the Month: Did a friend or family member recommend personal prescription importation from a licensed, legitimate online pharmacies to you?

Email us your thoughts at info@personalimportation.org

[Please note that we will be posting and sharing your comments anonymously. If you do not want them to be made public, please let us know in your email.]

March Question of the Month Responses:

Question: Have you ever had to skip taking a drug or split pills because of an inability to afford your medications?

Responses:

“Yes, there was a time when I was splitting my pills in half, then as the price got very high I would split the pills into quarters. I don’t have to do that anymore because I now get my pills from [an online pharmacy in Canada]... So, for the last four years the prices for my meds have been very reasonable—thanks to Canada! – *Greg*

April 2019 Continued

“I do not see why patent monopoly drugs cannot be price regulated just like any other monopolized product or service. The FDA could be the price regulator. It might also be interesting to look into price fixing and gouging in the wonderful world of Big Pharma.” – *Drew*

“When I was told to take Fosamax after being told that I had osteopenia by my doctor my insurance told me they would not cover the cost because I was too young. I was 51 and had just finished my chemo for breast cancer. Fortunately, my doctor kept giving me samples for over a year while I fought the insurance company and filed a case with the state of California. I finally prevailed but then did not need to take the drug anymore because the year of being given the drug had changed my bone density so I did not need to take it anymore. Later, the managed care insurance company went belly up. Probably due to expenditures of unneeded time spent in denying-needed care. In our county nearly 78,000 people had to find other coverage. I could go on and on with examples of denied authorizations for the care needs of patients and how much time was spent on the advocacy side by nurses and other practitioners dealing with the insurance companies. This was early on in the formation of the managed care systems in our area of Northern California during the mid to late nineties.” – *Susan (RN)*

“I don't know if all have taken note that the Canadian pharmacies have stopped accepting Master Card and Visa. Apparently, the card companies wanted [a higher] percentage of the charge. You can bet your bottom dollar that the card companies are in cahoots with big pharma. A similar scenario was the card companies refusal to honor purchases made by cardholders in New York state at Indian reservations. [They] refused to collect sales tax on the purchases and New York state put pressure on them to not honor the cards. Just what did the government have on the card companies that they could command such restrictions? What does big pharma have on them or do they own them?” – *PL*

“I have never had to curtail taking any of my meds as prescribed. This is due to ordering my meds from Canada. I take 12 meds daily, with Eliquis, Januvia, Zolofit and Colcrys, being expensive even from a Canadian pharmacy. My wife also takes several meds, but accesses them from Canada.” – *Morton*

“I buy three prescription drugs from Canada. They are not available as generics in the US. I have Medicare and a prescription plan. My full payment for these drugs from Canada is about \$80 per month. My copayment in the US is about \$400 per month. It takes about two weeks to get my prescriptions from Canada but I have excess at home. I am supposed to take them once daily but sometimes I don't” ...– *Elliot*

April 2019 Continued

Social Media Post of the Month:

March 16 at 2:15 PM ·

Americans want lower Rx prices but they don't want to lower prices to hamper innovation in any way, according to a new Kaiser Family Foundation poll. In addition, about 90% of respondents favor requiring Big Pharma to include list prices and making it easier for generics to come to market. <https://cnb.cx/2EUBhZI>

From our blog:

AARP DEMANDS: STOP RX GREED!

March 25, 2019

Recently, AARP launched a new campaign to draw attention to the greed and corruption of Big Pharma to keep prescription drug prices high and continually rising.

As AARP states:

It's unfair that Americans pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world. We must crack down on price gouging and the greedy practices that keep prices artificially high. It's time our leaders stick up for people 50+ and their families.

We encourage you to check out the campaign website to learn more, and consider sharing your personal importation with them near the bottom of the page.

We applaud AARP for drawing attention to this important issue and encourage you to join their efforts to STOP Rx GREED!

To access the website, please visit the following link:

<https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/advocacy/prescription-drugs/>

April 2019 Continued

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OP-ED: A NEW PRESCRIPTION FOR SAVING MONEY ON DRUG COSTS

March 19, 2019

A recent op-ed from a hospital president and CEO – John Couris – highlights legislation introduced by Governor Ron DeSantis in Florida to allow the importation of safe and affordable prescription drugs from FDA-approved facilities.

The proposal could save Floridians up to 80 percent on what they are currently paying for their medications. Couris points out that Americans are spending \$334 billion per year on prescription drugs.

“Drugs produced in other countries can be just as safe and far more affordable,” writes Couris.

As President and CEO of Tampa General Hospital, Couris emphasizes that the high cost of medications often stands in the way of the health and well-being of patients.

This is true of patients across the country. Not taking medication as prescribed causes approximately 125,000 deaths and at least 10 percent of hospitalizations, according to the Annals of Internal Medicine.

“Residents of the Sunshine State need access to reasonably priced medications. Such access supports our entire health care system by helping to keep costs down. Patients with access to affordable medications are more likely to stay healthier and need less costly care,” writes Couris.

For the full piece, please visit this link: <https://bit.ly/2uhXISm>

April 2019 Continued

YOUR VOICE MATTERS ON RX DRUG COSTS

March 12, 2019

Think you can't do anything about the high cost of drugs?

Check out what this doctor wrote in a community newspaper: <https://bit.ly/2TJmSaY>

Many local newspapers encourage readers to submit letters to the editor on important issues that affect many people. Your personal stories and perspective matter!

As Dr. Larry Feldman writes:

The power of the pharmaceutical companies can only be countered by the power of the people. If enough individuals strongly and repeatedly communicate the urgency of this issue, congressional representatives will listen. Our voices do matter, but only if we take the time to make our voices heard.

We encourage you to take a stand and speak up, follow Dr. Feldman's lead! If you are ready to take the next step and would like guidance or support on how to write and submit a letter to the editor, please email us at info@personalimportation.org today!

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SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR IMPORTATION LEGISLATION

March 11, 2019

Recently, Representative Steve Helms (R-MO) reached out to share his support for importation.

Rep. Helms has introduced legislation that would block state officials and law enforcement officers from impeding or inhibiting prescription drug importation for personal use as long as the patient has a valid prescription from a prescriber.

The bill would create a board responsible for licensing pharmacies outside the U.S. based on legal standards comparable to pharmacies located in Missouri.

We are thrilled to see states taking up the importation fight to ensure Americans have access to safe and affordable medications and we hope that other states follow Missouri's lead.

Thank you, Rep. Helms for your leadership on this issue!

For more information on the bill, please visit

<https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills191/hlrbillspdf/1572H.01I.pdf>

April 2019 Continued

Please take a moment to reach out to your elected official to make sure that they do not lose sight of protecting the rights of all Americans to access safe and affordable prescription medication by visiting our Contact Congress page at <https://personalimportation.org/contact-congress>.

Take Action – We would love to hear from you!

We are currently looking for personal stories to highlight the need for access to affordable and safe prescription medications to policy makers and thought leaders who can make a difference. Please share your story by visiting [this link](#).

About the Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation

<https://personalimportation.org>

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.

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