



CAMPAIGN
FOR PERSONAL
PRESCRIPTION
IMPORTATION

Newsletter: July 2019

States are taking up the fight to finally put an end to high drug prices, which could be promising for Americans struggling to access affordable medications. We support efforts to encourage personal prescription importation from licensed, legitimate online pharmacies in Canada and we urge you to write to your elected official to ask for their support of this important issue! Please visit our Contact Congress page TODAY!

While you are at it, share your testimonial with us... We would love to hear from you! We are looking for personal stories to share the realities of importation. Email us at info@personalimportation.org.

Join the fight TODAY!

Question of the Month: Have you ever talked to your doctor or pharmacist about importing medications from Canada?

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.]

May Question: Why do you believe that Americans should be able to import their medications safely and affordably from Canada?

Highlighted Comments:

Of course we should be able to get prescriptions from Canada, my dog needs an inhaler and [it] is over 400.00 here in Idaho, I pay \$130 for a 3-month supply from Canada and free shipping. I would not be able to afford to pay over \$400 dollars a month. So, I am so grateful that I can get prescriptions from Canada. – *Kathy via email*

I started looking for cheaper prices for my brand name anti depression medicine when my prescription started costing \$450 A MONTH. I was unable to take the generic because I had every kind of side effect you can imagine from the generic. It is known that generics can be about 33% different from the brand name. So, I found [an online pharmacy in Canada] and my prescription was \$156 for a 90 DAY SUPPLY. So, in comparison what would cost me \$450 a month to approximately \$52 a month. By the way that \$450 was the cost of the medicine WITH prescription coverage. So, paying the \$156 out of pocket was nothing. I also told my brother about the Pharmacy as he was taking a costly cholesterol drug and to this day he continues to get it from Canada because of the huge difference in the cost. Again, he needed to take the brand name of the medication. – *Karen via email*

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The government has no constitutional right to be involved in my medical care, particularly what I ingest. As a free man, my medical care is my business, including finding it as cost effective possible. The government can assist lining the pockets of "big pharma", and other high cost medical providers. Doing such is tyranny! – *Raymond via email*

Due to USA drug costs I've ordered many prescriptions from Canada for over 10 years with great service and no issues. But per IRS Pub 502, you can't deduct those costs. Big Pharma is exploiting all of us. Please help! - *Kristin via email*

I have been getting [medications] from a Canadian pharmacy for about two years. I have never had any problems. In the states they cost over \$300 per month and are about \$100 from Canada. When one is on Social Security you cannot afford drugs in the USA. – *Sharon via email*

I am in favor as we should be able to buy medications at the lowest price. Drug companies make outrageous profits – *Toby via email*

I buy 95 percent of [my medications] from Canada... Because I can't afford the price here!! – *Ken via email*

[Insurance company] was going to charge me \$875 for a 3-month prescription, got it through [Canada] for \$225. Same manufacturer, same quantity. – *Bob via email*

My wife is taking several prescription drugs for multiple health problems. *All are generic*. Fortunately, most of her drugs are financially manageable, but three -- not so much. One of these, essential for maintaining health of her liver, cost \$1,760 for 3-months here in the US. We get it through Canada for \$239 for 3-months. Our cost savings are similar for the other two drugs. The reason for these high costs here in the good ol' US of A? In my opinion -- and two of my wife's physicians agree – it is just plain GREED! – *Robert via email*

About 15 years ago I learned about buying prescription drugs from Canada. After checking to verify it is licensed by the Canadian Pharmacy Board I have ordered my [medication] from [an online pharmacy in Canada]. My meds arrive in 2-3 weeks, except for one time when the USA government confiscated my order at the border because they thought I was reselling it. (?) When I reported this to [the online pharmacy], they sent me another order ASAP and it came with no problem. I have no Rx med. insurance and the Medicare plan was more expensive than the cost of my med. Pharmacies in USA charge about \$65 for a month's supply of [my medication]--30 tablets. My order from Canada cost less than \$30 for 90 tabs. I do pay \$15 shipping which makes my total for a 90 day supply \$41.96. Thank you for all you are doing. American pharmaceutical companies' prices keep getting higher. It should be a crime for this to happen so that patients who need meds to stay alive are not able to afford them. - *Judith via email*

Because they cost a third to half as much – *Sandy via Facebook*

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Social Media Posts of the Month:

Facebook – June 6

These lawmakers campaigned on a pledge to lower Rx prices and since taking office, they have gone silent on their promises. Does this sound familiar? It's time for change and we need leaders who aren't afraid to stand up to Big Pharma! <https://tinyurl.com/y5n6s8bo>

Twitter – June 15

Study: Cost of brand name **#pharmaceuticals** doubles every 7-8 yrs... unbelievable and unacceptable! <https://tinyurl.com/y3qypppw>

From our blog:

POLITICO: TRUMP AIDES SPAR WITH HEALTH SECRETARY

June 19, 2019

This [Politico story](#) highlights the tension between the Administration and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar on importation. While Azar has said that he will support importation efforts, he has shown reluctance as the legislation moved forward in Florida.

As the article points out:

“At an Oval Office meeting last month, Trump repeatedly pushed Azar about what HHS was doing to help DeSantis import prescription drugs to Florida from other countries. But Azar instead focused on other efforts that he said would lower drug prices – a tactic that frustrated Trump said Rep. Gaetz, the Florida Congressman who attended the meeting.

According to someone in the meeting, Azar showed a clear lack of enthusiasm.

Even though the legislation passed, implementation could take a long time particularly if the Health Secretary does not support fully the idea of importation.

This further points to the disconnect between the leaders who are in a position to affect real change to help lower the high price of drugs.

Health care, and drug prices in particular, will be a critical issue in the 2020 election cycle and importation is a promising solution for elected officials and candidates to support.

We will be watching closely!

For the full article, [click here](#).

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DOCTORS FOR AMERICA: TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE FAIR DRUG PRICING

June 12, 2019

Recently, Doctors for America held a webinar on how doctors and others can help to ensure fair drug pricing, which is not a small task!

Doctors play a key role in helping patients identify the best approach to their healthcare and medication choice and since prescription drug prices have skyrocketed, they are increasingly playing a role in helping patients navigate to the most affordable options for their medications.

Speakers highlighted the tough choices that Americans have to make when they cannot afford their medications, based on a [Consumer Reports study](#).

People who have previously had an increase in the price of their medication said that they would either not fill the prescription (30%), decline a medical procedure (27%), put off a doctor's visit (26%), or switch to a supplement or nondrug treatment (20%).

These choices are unacceptable, no one should ever have to make a decision that would compromise their health because of an inability to pay unconscionable prices.

Another study from Kaiser Family Foundation assessed public opinion on what should be done to lower high drug prices. According to the study, eighty percent of Americans believe that we would be allowed to import medications from Canada.

Aaron Kesselheim, MD JD MPH of Harvard Medical School said, "There is no reason why we can't safely import these medications from other countries." He pointed out that 40% of medications and 80% of active ingredients used to make medications in the U.S. are imported from other countries.

We applaud the provider community for supporting patients by taking a stand against high drug prices, and especially [Doctors for America](#) for hosting this informative and empowering webinar.

To register to gain access to the webinar recording, please visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5rymhkd>

REALITIES OF IMPORTATION

June 3, 2019

Sometimes I wonder if our opponents are aware of the realities – not the myths and misperceptions – around drug importation.

Not only *can* Americans import their personal prescriptions safely and affordably, millions of Americans *are* importing their medications and have been doing so for many years.

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This is because they know – from friends and family members, their doctors, and their own personal experiences – that it is safe. In fact, in a recent national survey we asked people who import their medications if they would recommend it to family and friends in a recent survey and an astounding 97 percent of people answered positively because they know it is a safe option.

In fact, Roger Bate of the American Enterprise Institute conducted several discrete studies buying medicines online for nearly a decade and found that credentialed online pharmacies sell safe medicines, regardless of whether they come from the U.S. or overseas. Among the 275 samples bought from non-U.S. credentialed pharmacies, he found no fake medications and only one substandard medication. Compared to the 127 samples purchased from credentialed U.S. pharmacies, Bate found no fakes and also one substandard medication. (Source: American Enterprise Institute <http://bit.ly/2u7Fxn>)

We asked people who import their medications to compare what they would spend on their prescriptions in the U.S. to what they pay by purchasing them through a licensed online pharmacy in Canada. More than half of respondents (52 percent) report saving up to \$199 monthly by ordering through an online pharmacy. Among people who save more than \$300 per month (38 percent of respondents), the average savings that they report is a staggering \$910.

There is no disagreement that safety must be the most important concern. It's true that there are rogue pharmacies selling counterfeit medications, but if importation were legal then there would be approved websites reviewed and monitored by the Food and Drug Administration.

Contrary to widely-spread falsehoods by importation opponents, the safest drug is not always the most expensive drug. Manufacturers are located around the world and they produce medications distributed in the U.S. in different countries. The only difference is where the medications are sold, which determines the price.

It is widely known that the U.S. charges higher prices for medications compared to any other country in the world. Let's not confuse the debate – we are talking about high drug prices here, not safety.

Millions of Americans have come to trust legitimate Canadian pharmacies for safe, affordable medications – this is not a matter of opinion, it is a fact.

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>.

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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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