



CAMPAIGN  
FOR PERSONAL  
PRESCRIPTION  
IMPORTATION

**Newsletter: May 2019**

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It's May and Big Pharma is up to their usual tricks!

Have you checked out [our latest video series](#) on the realities of personal prescription importation? Don't let them get away with it, stand up for your rights! [Visit our website](#) and learn more.

And if you live in Florida, we would love to hear from you! We are looking for personal stories of importation to share with the media and promote to our community. Email us today at [info@personalimportation.org](mailto:info@personalimportation.org).

Join the fight TODAY!

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**May Question of the Month:** How long have you been ordering your medications from Canada and do you have any safety concerns?

Email us your thoughts at [info@personalimportation.org](mailto: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.]

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In last month's newsletter, we asked for your reactions to our latest video series and we received a lot of comments! Below are a few highlights.

**April Comments:**

My Physicians ... regularly [recommend online pharmacies in Canada]. [They are grateful for online pharmacies in Canada] because patients with chronic conditions are virtually unable to afford needed meds. These Physicians would be able to treat these at all .... because the patients would not be able to take their meds. – *O'Delle*

## May 2019 Continued

I remember years ago there were two governors from Midwest states who were publishing a list of certified Canadian pharmacies for their constituents to use. Not too long afterwards, they were stopped. I have been ordering two expensive prescriptions filled at a certified Canadian pharmacy. One retails for \$398 for a 30-gram tube of ointment at [U.S. pharmacy] before insurance (that usually won't pay much towards this medication). The Canadian pharmacy charges \$97.82, and \$9 of that is for shipping cost. Before, one could just have the cost put on their credit or debit card. The banks no longer permit use of our cards and we have to write a check. Supposedly "this is to protect us." – *Louise*

After reading countless articles about the greed, lies & political manipulations of Big Pharma, I have NO respect for them! I have dry eyes as a result of cataract surgery. I personally tried every way I knew to find affordable prices for [my] prescription... After checking with several pharmacies & applying my insurance & drug coupons, my final cost per month was a co-pay of almost \$400. I couldn't pay that! Someone mentioned that I should try to find a cheaper price online. I checked a Canadian-based site & now pay \$84 for approximately a 2-month supply. Big Pharma are obviously lining their own pockets & are not concerned about the health needs of American citizens. – *Sue*

I could not afford [my prescription] at the pharmacies here. My cardiologist had his receptionist give me the info about ordering it from a location in Canada, for which I have been very grateful. – *Willa*

Those companies say USA prices are [too] high due to research. It should be outlawed for them to advertise just as tobacco companies are restricted. That would bring the price down. Only one other first world company is also allowed to advertise to the public. Our government should do more of the research and manufacturing of our pharmaceuticals, our country could be at greater risk if other countries want to hold us hostage... That would give living wage jobs to our country. Less profit for the greater good. – *Mary*

This one is "unusual", at least to me. We have [an insurance company] that will only pay for generics. However, that's not the issue *this* time. Now they're even nitpicking on the type of generic. I've been on [medication] for migraines for years. They've finally come out with the generic in this country... They don't have a problem with filling a new prescription, but when it's time to refill, they play the "we need preauthorization" game. First, they nitpick because it's not generic and now they nitpick on what *type* of generic. It's one thing after another. – *Jacqueline*

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## May 2019 Continued

### Social Media Posts of the Month:

**Facebook** - April 13 ·

Thank you for your leadership, Senator Sanders! By vowing to cut Rx prices in half if elected, you are raising expectations for all elected officials who need to stand up to Big Pharma and help Americans who struggle to afford skyrocketing Rx drug prices! <https://cbsn.ws/2CNHo0r>

**Twitter** - April 14

Americans discuss how to deal with the high cost of [#pharmaceuticals](#) – Claiming it's because of research costs is no longer going to work!  
[bit.ly/2UasZWH](http://bit.ly/2UasZWH)

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### From our blog:

#### **WSJ: ARE IMPORTS THE ANSWER TO HIGH Rx PRICES?**

April 23, 2019

Here's the short answer to this headline from our perspective: YES!

The Wall Street Journal recently published a story on Florida legislation seeking to allow importation of prescription drugs. Several good points raised in this Letter to the Editor from Mary Mayhew, Secretary of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, including:

*In my short time as secretary, I have heard firsthand the plight of seniors who see their prescriptions increase month after month and from families rationing their life-saving medicines to pay for groceries under the current flawed prescription drug system. In 2016, 45 million adults did not fill a prescription due to cost. Further, Americans spend 30%-190% more on prescription drugs compared to other high-income developed nations and pay significantly more for the same drugs.*

## May 2019 Continued

Opponents of importation are quick to play on our worst fears of counterfeit medications, but Mayhew counters their arguments by pointing out the facts:

*The reality is that 40% of all drugs sold in the U.S. are already imported and 80% of active ingredients used in U.S. drugs come from abroad. Florida's program is no more risky than a trip to your local Walgreens. It simply seeks to expand the cost savings opportunities that manufacturers have benefitted from for years to Floridians.*

The issue is not safety as they would have us believe but rather an issue of protecting their profits. The pharmaceutical industry is global, a significant percentage of drugs sold in the U.S. are already sourced and manufactured in other countries.

As Dr. Allan Shanberg adds in the comment section, "The Canadian International Pharmacy Association maintains an approved list of pharmacies from which drugs and medication may be purchased online. These pharmacies have been researched and verified by the Canadian pharmaceutical industry as well as the government."

Americans have been ordering medications from Canada safely and affordably for more than 15 years and lawmakers know the facts of importation. We will be watching and hoping that they move forward with proposals to import medications and finally help bring down the high cost of prescription drugs.

If you have a subscription to the *Wall Street Journal*, [the full piece can be accessed here.](#)

## BOGUS SCARE TACTIC BY THE USUAL SUSPECTS

April 20, 2019

Big Pharma will stop at nothing to protect their profits and dig even deeper into Americans' wallets.

Their latest debacle is an ad in Florida warning people about fake prescriptions drugs. The local NBC-affiliate produced [this piece](#) debunking the claims of the pharma front group in their ad.

## May 2019 Continued

While this ad may work among uninformed consumers, many Americans who struggle with high drug prices will quickly identify the typical fear-mongering messages and manipulations in the piece.

While it is obvious that counterfeit medications pose a serious threat, we also know that safe and affordable personal prescription importation is not only possible but the day-to-day reality that provides a lifeline to many Americans.

We also know that the motivation behind groups like this – and ads like this for that matter – is nothing more than a desperate attempt to protect profits.

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts after viewing the clip of the broadcast news piece by emailing us at [info@personalimportation.org](mailto:info@personalimportation.org).

You can access the full clip at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6mjf2sl>

## NEW VIDEO SERIES: STAND UP FOR RX IMPORTATION

April 11, 2019

We are thrilled to share our new video series – Stand Up for Personal Prescription Importation!

These videos highlight 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](mailto: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!

Watch the videos [here](#).

**May 2019 Continued**

**THE NATION: IS THE FDA MISLEADING CONGRESS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF IMPORTED MEDICINES?**

April 4, 2019

In this [opinion piece](#), Gabriel Levitt poses the question: Is the FDA Misleading Congress About the Safety of Imported Medicines?

As Levitt writes, “We are in the midst of a public-health crisis” and we couldn’t agree more. Skyrocketing high drug prices have millions of Americans in a financial stranglehold – forcing too many people to make tough decisions that have significant economic and health consequences. All this while Big Pharma continues to hide behind half-truths and smoke-and-mirrors messaging in order to protect and increase their already outrageous profits.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has waged a high-profile public campaign to crack down on rogue pharmacies and online opioid drug dealers and we are 100 percent supportive of their efforts to rid our already delicate public-health system of these criminal enterprises.

In regards to personal prescription importation, the FDA has expressed commitment to lowering medication costs through exploring various proposals (including importation) and has acknowledged that Americans can safely buy medications from pharmacies in Canada.

Levitt calls out recent statements from the FDA that may be misleading to Congress, which may be driven by the influence of Big Pharma. He makes a strong case, check it out and let us know your thoughts by emailing [info@personalimportation.org](mailto:info@personalimportation.org).

The story can be found [here](#).

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**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>.

## May 2019 Continued

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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](#).

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### 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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