



CAMPAIGN
FOR PERSONAL
PRESCRIPTION
IMPORTATION

Newsletter: December 2019

Last Chance - Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation Annual Survey!

It will only take a few minutes and ***your feedback is critical*** for helping to share the realities of safe and affordable personal prescription importation with Congressional leaders and other decision makers.

(survey now closed)

[Read highlights from last year's survey](#)

Social Media Posts of the Month:

Facebook – November 9

Dim outlook for [#RxPricing](#) legislation – Intraparty disputes and impeachment inquiry could curtail efforts for real action. Is anyone surprised? One step forward, two steps back... or three?

<https://tinyurl.com/y28tkvcf> [#RxImportation](#)

Twitter – November 8

Business as usual! Trade unions join [#BigPharma](#) to attack bill aimed at lowering [#highdrugprices](#)

<https://tinyurl.com/y4duswy9>

From our blog:

AARP RELEASES REPORT ON RX PRICES

November 15, 2019

This week, AARP released a report showing that drug prices for more than 260 brand name drugs increased more than twice as fast as inflation in 2018.

While the rate of inflation was 2.4 percent, prescription drug prices for the drugs studied increased by 5.8 percent.

As an example, the authors point out the following example:

The average annual cost of drug therapy for one brand name drug used on a chronic basis would have been more than \$5,000 lower in 2018 (\$2,176 v. \$7,202) had their retail price changes been limited to the rate of general inflation between 2006 and 2018.

The study authors emphasize that drug spending increases ‘will affect all Americans in some way and ‘increased government spending will ultimately lead to higher taxes and/or cuts to public programs.’

They advise policy makers to focus on changes that produce sustainable effects while balancing the need for improved health and the financial security of consumers and taxpayer-funded programs.

The report is a continuation of AARP’s [Rx Watchdog report series](#) that tracks manufacturer price changes for widely used prescription drugs.

You can read the full report [here](#).

STUDY: MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE LOST SOMEONE BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO PAY FOR CARE

November 12, 2019

This headline is a wake-up call! More than 13% of American adults – or about 34 million people – report that they know at least one family member or friend who has died in the past five years because they were unable to pay for medical care, which includes prescription medications.

The study, conducted by Gallup and West Health, also showed that 58 million people reported being unable to pay for their medications within the past year.

Study authors pointed out that the study is not intended to estimate the number of people who have died as a result of not being able to pay for treatment but rather the number of people who have ‘knowledge of a death under such circumstances.’

The authors capture the essence of the findings as such:

The substantial number of Americans who know someone who has died after not receiving treatment because of their inability to pay for it, coupled with the rise in the percentage who have not had enough money to pay for their prescriptions, underscores the urgency of the U.S. healthcare cost crisis. These realities starkly highlight the significant practical implications of drug prices on U.S. residents, as well as the effects of healthcare policy action — or inaction. They attribute the urgency as arising from an ‘overwhelming public sentiment regarding the inappropriately high prices of prescription drugs.’

We emphasize that the timeliness and impact of these studies is critical for helping elected officials and leaders who are seeking public office to carry this message forward through influence and action.

The time to act on high drug prices is now.

Let’s turn up the heat and demand follow-through on the issue of high drug prices. Personal prescription importation enables Americans to access safe and affordable medication.

Let your elected leaders know how you feel by visiting our [Contact Congress](#) page, it takes less than five minutes to reach out to them!

You can read more about the study [here](#).

SHINING A LIGHT INTO THE SHADOWS

November 7, 2019

This week, CPPI’s Executive Director attended the ICANN Meeting in Montreal, Canada. ICANN stands for the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and they are the governing body for the Internet.

This meeting was important as Big Pharma and their front groups use “shadow regulation” and the spread of misinformation to restrict Internet access to safe and affordable medicines through personal prescription importation.

Shadow regulations, as defined by the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) (EFF), are the voluntary agreements between companies (sometimes described as codes, principles, standards, or guidelines) to regulate your use of the Internet, often without your knowledge.

CPPI, the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) (EFF), [Roger Bate](#), and [others](#) have been calling out these mounting issues intended to restrict access to medications for years.

Previously, CPPI published [this article](#) on protecting human rights as it intersects with digital technology while opposing those who use the Internet to restrict access to safe and affordable medications.

These conspiratorial activities represent a colossal disservice to millions of patients seeking to access safe, affordable medicines.

The Internet community and ICANN members have a strong interest in ensuring that principles of freedom of speech are adhered to and any censorship activities, particularly those driven by corporate interests and profits, are identified and quickly banned.

It is critical that we continue to bring dubious practices intended to mislead consumers with misinformation out of the shadows and into the light.

For specifics on alleged shadow regulation tactics employed by Big Pharma front groups intended to impede safe and affordable importation, please review the recent [PharmacyChecker.com lawsuit complaint of conspiracy](#).

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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