



CAMPAIGN
FOR PERSONAL
PRESCRIPTION
IMPORTATION

Newsletter: November 2019

Don't Miss THIS!

Please take the **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 – October 24

Wake-up call: Voters care more about [#RxPricing](#) than impeaching the President. Candidates should take heed and keep their eye on the ball, we want safe and affordable medication NOW!
[#highdrugprices](#) [#RxImportation](#) <https://tinyurl.com/y58qksqk>

Twitter – October 22

The \$\$ of these 7 [#pharmaceuticals](#) had a nearly 10% increase within the past 2 years, but didn't warrant an [#RxPricing](#) increase based on benefits to patients!
<https://tinyurl.com/yy2ctomb>

From our blog:

BIG PHARMA FUNDS SHERIFFS' EFFORTS TO BLOCK IMPORTATION

October 25, 2019

This week, Bloomberg reported that Big Pharma helped fund Sheriffs' ads aimed at drug importation ([click here for story](#)). While we know that Big Pharma has been engaging in these egregious, manipulative practices for many years, it is refreshing to see such a detailed and explicit account brought to light in the media.

The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) ad blitz attacking importation was paid for by at least \$900,000 in grants from a front group that is funded and operated by Big Pharma's trade association.

Incidentally, the sheriffs' group has been struggling financially for many years, according to internal documents obtained by the reporter. In 2018, NSA sold \$1.8 million in investments in order to pay off debt and catch up with paying employee's wages. The group then began seeking grants from companies and nonprofits and soon found a Big Pharma backed nonprofit called Partnership for Safe Medicines that would become its biggest grant-provider.

An NSA executive stated in an email that the ad campaign against drug importation was an important moneymaker that could be used to pay off their debts, according to the article.

The ads were just one part of a two-year campaign that 'used secret payments, a widely-criticized consultant's report and even celebrity drug cops to concoct public-safety arguments against drug importation and then use them to foster the appearance of widespread concern among law-enforcement groups,' as the article states.

The piece goes on to call out another paid consultant:

In 2017, the Partnership for Safe Medicines hired former FBI Director Louis Freeh's consulting firm to prepare a report on how drug-importation proposals would affect law enforcement's ability to protect public health. The nonprofit paid Freeh's firm at least \$322,000 that year, records show. [Freeh's 47-page report](#) concluded that the plans would open "a new, unregulated pipeline into the United States" and could "create opportunities for criminal organizations to profit."

The article points out that 'none of the state drug-importation plans that are being proposed or developed in the U.S. seek to allow imports from unregulated online pharmacies'.

"The safety arguments are, quite frankly, ridiculous," said Michael Law, an associate professor in the school of population and public health at the University of British Columbia.

This quote from Tom Leek, a Republican state representative who introduced the drug importation bill in Florida (which ultimately passed), sums up the many nefarious practices of Big Pharma to thwart importation, “It was a good, old-fashioned scare campaign...Their real fear is that this could have a significant impact on the profit margins of drug companies.”

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

FDA AND PACKAGE SEIZURES

October 18, 2019

Prescription Justice recently addressed the issue of [package seizures and their recommendations](#) for Americans who do not receive their medications.

They profiled Elizabeth who periodically imports medication for migraine headaches at a dramatically lower price compared to what she would pay in the U.S.

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) destroyed her medication after it was detained at an international mail facility (IMF).

After the medication was detained, Elizabeth received a notice, stating, “This article was determined to be a prescription drug but does not include the symbol ‘rx-only’ on the label.”

As the blog post describes, the law states that imports valued at \$2500 or less can be destroyed if they are misbranded, unapproved, adulterated or counterfeit, but not until the importer is given “due process” to defend the prescription order. [21 USC 381(a)].

Importantly, a “misbranded” drug (as it is termed) is often the same drug sold here with different packaging and labeling. An “unapproved” drug import is often simply a foreign version of the FDA-approved drug, and just as safe and effective.

Prescription Justice offers template language available to anyone who is interested in defending the importation of their medication – available for download on their website – [reclaim a drug import detained by FDA](#).

In this particular case, Elizabeth used the template and sent her letter to the FDA.

The FDA responded 13 days after her inquiry informing Elizabeth that her prescription drug order was destroyed. The justification was the same one given in the FDA’s first letter. Interestingly, the package destroyed by the FDA more than likely contained an FDA-approved drug.

Unfortunately, the potential for an increase in packages being destroyed at the border because of concerns over illegal fentanyl imports but these efforts were intended to end the opioid crisis, not block safe and affordable medications from reaching patients in need.

If you believe your medication has been seized by the FDA, please contact the online pharmacy directly to re-order your medication. We also encourage you to contact us at info@personalimportation.org to share your story.

For the complete Prescription Justice blog post, [please click here](#).

AMERICANS DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME

October 14, 2019

Americans struggling to pay skyrocketing high drug prices do not have the luxury of time. Many people are forced to find a way to access their medications now. Below are a couple of their stories:

When Ellen was first diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, she was shocked at the cost of her prescription in the U.S. – \$600 each month with insurance. She did some research online and found that the exact same medication cost less than \$100 in Canada. After consulting with her doctor, she was able to transfer her prescription to a Canadian online pharmacy and has been importing her medication monthly since her diagnosis. The irony is that the medication is not even manufactured in the U.S. yet the cost in this country is considerably higher compared to other countries.

A 55-year-old father of two from Minneapolis says, "If I had to pay full price for my medications in the U.S., it would have a severe impact on my family's budget." For the past two years, he has been ordering his medications from an online pharmacy in Canada and he saves approximately 75% compared to U.S. prices. If he was unable to order from Canada, his medications would cost approximately \$14,000 per year in the U.S.

These are just a couple stories to highlight the struggles that many Americans face on a daily basis. There are millions of stories like these, and the situation is only getting worse as Big Pharma continues to raise prices with no one doing anything to stop them.

Importation offers Americans a safe and affordable option to exorbitant high drug prices. [Visit this link today](#) and start saving!

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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