



## Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act

On January 10, 2007, Senators Dorgan, Snowe, Grassley, Kennedy, McCain, Stabenow and others reintroduced bipartisan prescription drug importation legislation, the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety, to address the price inequity in which American consumers are unfairly charged the world's highest prices for prescription drugs.

The high cost of prescription drugs reduces access to life-saving medications, particularly for the more than 46 million individuals who lack prescription drug coverage. It is no wonder that four of five Americans are calling for competition to increase affordability.

### Bringing American consumers needed savings

- The bill allows U.S.-licensed pharmacies and drug wholesalers to import FDA-approved medications from Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan and pass along the savings to their American customers. This approach will allow Americans to benefit from prices in these countries, which are 35-55% lower than in the U.S., while still enabling consumers to receive medications at their local pharmacy.
- The legislation would also allow individual consumers to purchase prescription drugs for their own personal use from safe, reliable, FDA-inspected Canadian pharmacies.
- The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this legislation will result in \$50 billion in direct savings alone over the next decade, with \$6.1 billion of that being savings in the federal budget.

### Providing a higher level of safety for prescription drugs

- This legislation requires pharmacies and drug wholesalers to register with the FDA and to be subject to strict requirements to assure the safety of imported medications - including frequent, random inspections.
- The legislation allows only the importation of FDA-approved medicines with a "chain of custody" to ensure that drugs are handled only by authorized persons. The bill mandates use of anti-counterfeiting technology to assure product integrity.
- The legislation gives the FDA the resources and authority it needs to ensure the safety of imported drugs and to stop illicit sales – whether it be of unsafe products or drugs dispensed without a proper prescription.

### Assuring consumers will see savings

- The legislation includes provisions to prevent drug manufacturers from obstructing trade, such as cutting off Canadian pharmacies from medications, or attempting to make subtle changes to medications so they cannot be imported.
- Consumers won't wait for years to realize the savings they need and deserve. The bill proactively gives the FDA the tools to ensure imported drugs will be safe, rather than asking for a "safety certification" from the HHS Secretary.