

Food and Drug Administration Rockville MD 20857

JUN 2 5 8 2001 OF JUL 10 P12:19

Mr. Steve McCarthy 3017 Ivy Chase Loop Montgomery, Alabama 36117

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

Thank you for your electronic mail message of May 13, 2001, addressed to Senator Jeff Sessions, regarding your concerns about switching allergy medications from prescription to overthe-counter status.

Currently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) has an open docket to receive comments on these prescription drugs of concern to you. We are forwarding your electronic mail message to docket number 98P-0610 where it will be considered by the Agency.

Thanks again for contacting Senator Sessions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Melinda K. Plaisier Associate Commissioner

for Legislation

cc: The Honorable Jeff Sessions United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510-0104

Dockets Management Branch, HFA-305 (Docket No. 98P-0610)

988-0610

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COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
JUDICIARY
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
JOINT ECONOMIC

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

June 9, 2001

Ms. Melinda K. Plaisier
Associate Commissioner for Legislative Affairs
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Parklawn Building, Room 15-55
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Plaisier:

I am writing to share with you the concerns of one of my constituents, Mr. Steve McCarthy, Alabama. He is concerned about the effort of drug companies to reclassify their drugs as over-the-counter, rather than prescription. He believes this will cause consumers to pay higher prices for drugs. I respectfully request that you submit a response directly to him, and submit a copy to my legislative assistant Anthony Leigh.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

1 8

United States Senator

JS:al

Date: 5/13/01 2:34 PM

**Sender:** Steve McCarthy <smccarthy@zebra.net>

Subject: Drug Companies Swindle

Dear Senator Sessions, our local newspaper recently ran a story about large drug

companies that were pushing to remove certain drugs from the prescription drug

list and having them provided as over-the-counter drugs. The article talked of

how much money could be saved by these companies but did not mention that us

retired people would then have to pay for them without being reimbursed and would come right out of these older Americans pockets. Supposedly, the FDA has

already approved this change. I respectively request that you ask for an inquiry

on this matter and ensure that all Americans are made aware of the outcome of

the inquiry on a national level. I, for one, am an elderly retired person on a

fixed income and this would probably cause me to not get these medications that

I need. Please keep me informed of the outcome on this matter.

Respectfully, Steve McCarthy.

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Steve ME Garthy 3017 My Chase Loop Montgomery, Marama 36117

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<DIV><FONT color=#00000</pre>

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