

How you can stop
the drug price ripoff

Americans pay outrageously inflated prices for their prescription drugs compared to citizens of other countries. What follows are examples of unconscionably high prices Americans pay for their medicines.

The House of Representatives just passed a bill that will enable Americans to import lower-cost prescription drugs from other countries for their own personal use. This bill now must get through the Senate. It is crucial that everyone send the this form letter to their two Senators to get this bill enacted into law.

	US Price	European Price
ACCUPRIL 5	\$10.29	\$3.50
ALLEGRA 120	\$23.33	\$6.96
AMBIEN	\$19.65	\$5.41
BIAXIN 500	\$32.83	\$22.05
CIPRO250	\$36.14	\$15.20
CLARITIN	\$21.02	\$5.35
COUMADIN	\$12.58	\$2.74
GLUCOPHAGE	\$10.04	\$1.37
NORVASC 10	\$20.96	\$11.08
PRAVACHOL 40	\$33.97	\$23.32
PREVACID15	\$35.82	\$11.06
PRILOSEC	\$34.49	\$17.56
PROZAC	\$23.98	\$14.70
VASOTEC 5	\$9.38	\$2.77
ZESTRIL 5	\$8.64	\$1.84
ZITHROMAX 500	\$162.00	\$58.73
ZOLOFT 50	\$20.95	\$12.19
ZYRTEC	\$16.70	\$5.91

Passage of this Senate bill will stop the FDA from interfering with lower-cost imports of FDA-approved products from other countries. It would force today's pharmaceutical cartel to compete in the world marketplace!

Last year, Congress voted overwhelmingly to allow importation of prescription drugs. Supporters of this free market approach thought they were going to be able to mail order prescription drugs. The FDA blocked last year's Congressional victory by refusing to implement it. Now, the FDA wants to block all mail orders of prescription drugs.

Congressman Gil Gutknecht, the sponsor of the recent successful House legislation stated: "While seniors in the U.S. are struggling to pay for medicine, those in other countries are paying 30% to 70% less for the exact same drugs. We can't allow our own FDA to stand between seniors and lower prescription drug prices."

Contacting your Senators by e-mail

Contact your senator today. For your convenience, we made it easy to send a message to your Senator. Just follow these simple steps:

Click here to fill out a form with your name, mailing address and email address. Once you've completed the form, click continue.

A personalized letter with your information and your senator's name will be shown. If your Senator has an email address, you can then click on the Send Mail button to send the message to your Senator.

If your Senator does not have an email address, the personalized letter with your information and addressed to your Senator will appear. You can then either print out this page or you can copy the text and paste it into your own word processing

software. Then, sign and mail the letter, addressed to your Senator, to United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

For those of you that do not have email, we've included a sample of the letter below. If you do not know who your Senators are, then you can find out by calling (202) 225-3121.

Date: _____

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

Americans pay the highest prices in the world for their prescription medications. Shifting high drug prices to Medicare only means that the burden is transferred to the taxpayer. The House of Representatives just passed the FY 2002 Agriculture Appropriations bill that includes a provision to allow Americans to import FDA-approved drugs from other countries. The price of these identical medications is 30% to 70% lower than what Americans are being forced to pay today.

I urge you to support Senator Paul Wellstone's amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill as long as it follows the Gutknecht House language that allows Americans to obtain prescription drugs from other countries for personal use. The House version of this bill stops the FDA from blocking the importation of lower cost medications from other countries. Please make sure this same language included in the Senate version of this bill. As your constituent, I am asking you to vote on the Fiscal Year 2002 Agriculture Appropriations bill that includes the Gutknecht language. Passage of this bill (with the personal importation provisions included) will make a significant impact on resolving the health care cost crisis that threatens to bankrupt this country.

Please let me know your position on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

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