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January 17, 2024

Pharmacy organizations raise concerns about Florida's drug importation program

WASHINGTON - Our pharmacy organizations are deeply concerned about FDA's recent authorization of a state drug importation program, which could open the door for harmful and counterfeit drugs to enter our nation's drug supply, with no evidence that this will result in cost savings for our patients.

FDA recently authorized Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration to import certain drugs under specific conditions. Under current law, FDA can only authorize importation if the program will significantly reduce the cost to the American consumer without imposing additional risk to public health and safety. FDA's announcement did not contain any data or information that assure that this standard has been met.

While our organizations share concerns regarding the high cost of medicines in the United States, patient safety should not be compromised under any circumstance. As pharmacists, we are on the front lines protecting our nation's drug supply chain and ensuring the delivery of safe and effective medicines to our patients. State importation programs introduce several opportunities for mix-ups, mishandling, mislabeling, and other rogue activity that would place some of our most vulnerable patient communities at risk.

Pharmacists have been working with manufacturers and wholesalers for over ten years to implement the [Drug Supply Chain and Security Act](#) (DSCSA), a law that requires tracing of drugs through the supply chain by creating a closed drug distribution system in the U.S. to protect patients from receiving harmful drugs. DSCSA imposes protections and requires documentation that follows the drug from the manufacturer to the pharmacy, so it is clear who owned the product, and that the product is legitimate. Canada does not have a similar law, leaving our drug supply chain at risk under Florida's program.

We look forward to continuing to work with FDA and other policymakers to implement meaningful solutions to lower the high cost of prescription drugs without compromising patient safety.

American Pharmacists Association
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

National Alliance of State Pharmacy
Associations
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
National Community Pharmacists Association
Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists
Alabama Pharmacy Association
Alaska Pharmacy Association
Arizona Pharmacy Association

Arkansas Pharmacists Association
California Pharmacists Association
Colorado Pharmacists Society
Connecticut Pharmacists Association
Delaware Pharmacists Society
Georgia Pharmacy Association
Hawaii Pharmacists Association
Illinois Pharmacists Association
Indiana Pharmacy Association
Iowa Pharmacy Association
Kansas Pharmacists Association
Kentucky Pharmacists Association
Maine Pharmacy Association
Maryland Pharmacists Association
Michigan Pharmacists Association
Minnesota Pharmacists Association
Mississippi Pharmacists Association
Missouri Pharmacy Association
Montana Pharmacy Association
Nebraska Pharmacists Association
Nevada Pharmacy Alliance
New Jersey Pharmacists Association
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists
North Dakota Pharmacists Association
Ohio Pharmacists Association
Oklahoma Pharmacists Association
Oregon State Pharmacy Association
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association
Pharmacists Society of the State of New York
Rhode Island Pharmacists Association
South Carolina Pharmacy Association
South Dakota Pharmacists Association
Tennessee Pharmacists Association
Utah Pharmacy Association
Virginia Pharmacy Association
Washington D.C. Pharmacy Association
Washington State Pharmacy Association
West Virginia Pharmacists Association
Wyoming Pharmacy Association

Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Inc
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists
Colegio de Farmaceuticos de Puerto Rico
Colorado Pharmacists Society
East Alabama Health
Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists
Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Mississippi Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacist
New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacy
New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists
Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Rhode Island Society of Health System Pharmacists
Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Vermont Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Washington State Pharmacy Association

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