

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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  
National Pharmaceutical 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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