



Conservatives
for
Property Rights

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Contact: Ryan Moy
rmoy@crcpublicrelations.com

Statement on Proposed Pharmaceutical Importation

(Washington, D.C.) — The following statement on the latest proposed drug importation scheme may be attributed to James Edwards, Executive Director, Conservatives for Property Rights:

“The administration has launched the latest quest to find the holy grail of pharmaceutical importation. This one is guaranteed to come up empty-handed, too.

“Health and Human Services kicks the detail-writing to states and pharma companies. If the devious minds of federal politicians and bureaucrats of both parties have failed for decades to skin that cat, state bureaucrats will surely fall short now.

“And pharmaceutical innovators have little incentive to take on the liability exposure of importing what are purported to be their brand medications. Would you risk your company’s reputation on this high-risk gamble? It would be irresponsible in their fiduciary and public health duties.

“This importation scheme will fail, should fail and if pressed will fail to protect American lives and health. Previous Food and Drug Administration heads, Republican and Democratic, have consistently been unable to deem importation as safe for patients. Several warn that importation ‘could lead to a host of unintended consequences and undesirable effects, including serious harm stemming from the use of adulterated, substandard or counterfeit drugs.’

“Notably, former Trump FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb recently recounted ‘the reason that we have the closed [pharmaceutical control] system in this country . . . [is] because of counterfeit drug problems that were originating in Florida. . . . We had concerns that the drugs weren’t coming from brick-and-mortar places in Canada.’

“HHS Sec. Alex Azar has pooh-poohed drug importation. He’s called ‘Canadian’ drug importation a dangerous ‘gimmick.’ The imported meds are often ‘routed from, say, a counterfeit factory in China or another country.’ Sec. Azar warned that ‘the last thing we need is open borders for unsafe drugs in search of savings that cannot be safely achieved.’ How true!

“All Americans want foreign freeloader countries to pay their fair share for American-made new medicines. But misguided schemes like importation put our patients’ lives at risk, punish pharmaceutical innovators, attack their property rights and do little to reduce drug costs. That’s a high price to pay for ‘medicine.’”

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