

To: Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, M.D., F.A.C.S.,

I thought that you would be interested in the following resolution passed at the League of Latin American Citizens national conference in San Antonio on July 10.

2 pages including title page

2004N-0115

SUP 1

**Subject: TEXAS LULAC RESOLUTION/PASSED IN ARLINGTON TX. JUNE 6, 2004**

**Texas LULAC Resolution  
"Health and Safety in America is a Family Matter"**

**Whereas: The league of United Latin American Citizens has been an effective voice improving the health and welfare of Latinos in this country since 1929.**

**Whereas: LULAC supports the delivery of quality healthcare, including safe and effective prescription drugs for all Latino working families.**

**Whereas: One of the missions of LULAC is to improve the health and well-being of Latinos and to be an advocate insuring accountability in this area.**

**Whereas: The Latino community is facing a healthcare crisis in America, where over 45 million people are uninsured, underinsured, or live with a family member who is uninsured.**

**Whereas: 88% of the uninsured persons under the age of 65 are members of working families making less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.**

**Whereas: One-third of the uninsured population come from Latino working families.**

**Whereas: LULAC believes that a healthcare system based on informed consumer choice through a private healthcare delivery system is essential to promoting patients' access to needed care, prescription safety, and affordability.**

**Whereas: Without insurance, persons with chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease are less likely to have regular check-ups or get medications that control their diseases.**

**Whereas: LULAC supports a focus on increasing medical research of Latino health needs such as preventing chronic diseases and providing quality healthcare.**

**Whereas: LULAC will continue to advocate for more funding for community and migrant healthcare centers.**

**Whereas: LULAC is concerned about the risks to Latino consumers that will be caused by allowing commercial importation of medicines from unknown, unverified or unsafe sources.**

**Whereas: Canadian regulators have repeatedly said they do not inspect or certify the safety of prescription medicines that are being transhipped through Canada to United States consumers. Opening the borders to importation from other countries creates a gap in our prescription drug delivery system that counterfeiters can and will exploit.**

**Whereas: According to Industry Canada, the Canadian Government Trade Agency, there were significant increases in Canadian imports of pharmaceuticals from countries that have documented counterfeit problems, 3rd world countries such as Singapore (30%), Ecuador (188%), China (43%), Iran (2.75%), Argentina (221%), South Africa (84%), and Thailand (62%).**

**Whereas: Both the Clinton and Bush Administration Health and Human Services Secretaries, several former FDA commissioners, and U.S./Canada Pharmacy Regulatory Agencies all have voiced safety concerns over the importation of foreign drugs into this country.**

**Whereas: Neither the FDA, Health Canada, U.S. Customs, or U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency have enough inspectors to monitor the safety assurance of imported prescription drugs.**

**Whereas: Canada is being used as a post office for third-world countries to sell and import their prescription drugs into the U.S.**

**These and other safety concerns are why the Latinos in LULAC respectfully oppose any legislation that would jeopardize the health and safety of our citizens with the importation of unregulated unsafe prescription drugs. Therefore, be it resolved that LULAC supports patient assistance programs that provide free or deeply discounted prescription drugs to eligible patients who do not have prescription drug coverage.**

**Submitted by: LULAC COUNCIL #4626  
San Antonio, Texas  
Jaime P. Martinez, Pres.**