

60 Plus Association

Western Operations

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***Abolish the Death Tax • Personalized Social Security • Senior Voice Newsletter
Guardian of Seniors' Rights Award • Safe and Affordable Prescription Drugs***

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Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket #2004N-0115

On behalf of the 60 Plus Association, Western Operations, I would like to formally state my opposition to new legislation that supports drug importation from Canada.

As a consumer advocate, I have worked for years to ensure that seniors have quality access to health care and affordable prescription medications. I can understand that Canadian prescription drug prices are enticing for consumers. However, I believe that purchasing drugs from sources outside the United States can be dangerous.

Recent news articles demonstrate all that glitters is certainly not gold. FDA blitzes have discovered an abundance of counterfeit and unapproved drugs. The FDA stated that drugs imported from Canada are often manufactured in "distant corners of the world." We recently learned that an overseas Internet site was distributing counterfeit versions of the Johnson & Johnson birth control patch, which were void of active ingredients.

Altered medications are especially dangerous to seniors. If the imported drug has a different molecular structure, dosing or efficacy, the change in medications can be detrimental.

Recent importation legislation is a misguided attempt for the state to save money. It may appear that purchasing drugs from Canada will provide short-term savings. However, that savings can come at the cost of sick, elderly and vulnerable Americans.

Sincerely,

Henry Hough **2004N-0115**
Senior Vice President, Western Operations

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60 Plus is a 12-year-old nonpartisan group with a less government, less taxes approach to seniors' issues. 60 Plus has become one of the fastest growing seniors groups in the country, doubling, then tripling its support in the past year. 60 Plus can now call on support from nearly 4.5 million citizen lobbyists to print and mail millions of letters and petition. 60 Plus publishes a newsletter, SENIOR VOICE, and a SCORECARD, bestowing a GUARDIAN OF SENIORS' RIGHTS award on lawmakers in both parties who vote "pro-senior." 60 Plus has been called "an increasingly influential lobbying group for the elderly."