

2003-04 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on
Health, Children,
Families, Aging and
Long Term Care
(SC-HCFALTC)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ 03hr_sjro046_pt03

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

Sally & Thomas Gavney

207 Cherry Street
Beloit, WI 53511

Phone: 608-362-3363
FAX:
email: ROCKGAV@aol.com

Monday, February 16, 2004

Judith B. Robson
Wisconsin State Senator
State Capitol
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Ms. Robson,

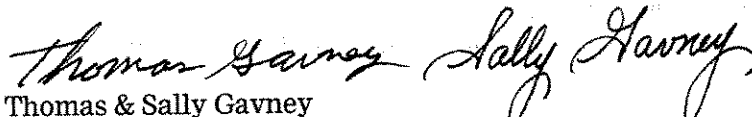
We received your letter about the hearing regarding the import and reimport of prescription drugs. We cannot attend, but we would like to send a letter telling about how it is for us.

We do have prescription drug coverage. However, it is through the United Food & Commercial Workers Union. They are having difficulty keeping up our coverage, because of there being fewer and fewer union grocery stores to participate, because of nonunion places like Wal Mart selling groceries.

Just this last month, our insurance raised our premium from \$425 to \$500 a month. This is for drug coverage and 20% of our medical bills. Between that, our Medicare premiums, and what we do pay for drugs, it takes about 1/3 of our Social Security and Pension. Tom started working part time a few years ago, so we could pay our property taxes. Now he has to work to pay our medical costs too. He is 70 years old, so we don't know how much longer he can.

Between the two of us, we take 17 prescription drugs for Hypertension, Asthma, Diabetes, etc. We try to take generic medicines whenever possible, and our doctor is good about giving us as many samples as he can. If he didn't give us samples of name brand medicines, we just couldn't take them. When the new Medicare plan covering drugs happens, if we go on it, we will fall right into the gap.

I cannot understand why our country can't have price controls like other countries do. We don't need ads on TV for prescription drugs, and so what if the drug companies need money for research. Only rich people will be able to afford new drugs.


Thomas & Sally Gavney

1934 Liberty Lane
Janesville, WI 53545
February 16, 2004

Senator Judy Robson
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Robson:

I am unable to attend the public hearing on Senate Joint Resolution 46, but want to express my concern on how prescription drug prices affect all of us.

I was hired by the State of Wisconsin in April 2002. They have a six-month waiting period before the health insurance becomes effective. During those six months, I obtained a major medical policy, in case of an emergency, but was without coverage for prescription drugs. I only take one—thank goodness—as my allergy medicine, Claritin, (which wasn't sold over the counter at that time) was \$62 for a 30-day supply and was needed monthly. It made me realize how financially difficult it must be for senior citizens and everyday people who have no prescription drug coverage.

State of Wisconsin employees have obtained a new prescription drug policy at the start of this new year. Prescriptions that I was purchasing for my son, which used to fall in the \$17.25 bracket, are now in the third tier of \$35. And some they will not even cover. It's sad when the doctor recommends a prescription, but the prescription drug insurance company denies it—who is making the decisions? Who is making the big bucks?

I hope you and your colleagues are successful in your endeavor to make this very important change in health care.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Marshall

Julie A. Marshall

404 McKenley Ave.
Beloit, Wn 53511

February 16, 2007

Judith B. Robson
Wisconsin State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wn 53707-7882

Re: Senate Joint Resolution 46

Dear Senator Robson:

Thank you for authoring and presenting this resolution. I now purchase prescriptions from Canada as I cannot afford the prices they charge here in the U.S. I have no prescription insurance and get no assistance under the Wisconsin program.

If I can no longer get my prescriptions from Canada, I will have to quit taking my much needed drugs.

Thank you for all you do for us old, lower-income

senior citizens.

Sincerely,
Juanita C Knowles

Feb. 16, 2004

Judith B. Robson

Wisconsin State Senator

State Capital, Post office box 7882

Madison, WI. 53707-7882

Re: Senate Joint Resolution 46

Dear Senator Robson,

Thank you for your outstanding efforts
on Resolution 46.

We are very concerned about the
affordability of Prescription Medication.

Why should we as Americans pay
as much as 68 percent more for our
Prescription Medications than the
Canadians, Europeans and other
industrialized nations? This is not right

In 2003 we spent \$2,360.11 for
copy of our Medications and our
copy is increasing by one third
in 2004 which will be approximately
\$3,150.00!

without insurance for 2003, we
would have spent \$9969.44 for
prescription medications or \$747.45
per month! The prescriptions are
for maintenance medications only!
again, thank you for your efforts
on Resolution 46.

Sincerely,
Larry O. Anderson
Jackie K. Anderson



The Anderson's
Jackie & Larry
2126 So. Pearl
Janesville, WI 53546

19822 West Good Hope Road
Lannon, Wis 53046
Feb. 17, 2004

Senator Judith Robson
Post Office 7882
Madison, Wi 53707-7882

Dear Senator Robson,

I am sending this letter as testimony in support of Senate Joint Resolution 46. Persons needing medications face a huge burden related to the ever escalating costs of prescription drugs. As an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP) practicing with frail older adults, I see first hand the severe hardship elders experience in paying for their medications.

I have seen elders only take blood pressure medication every other day, as a means to afford taking the medication at all. I have met elders who have to weigh filling a prescription or buying groceries. This cannot continue.

I urge the Senate of the state of Wisconsin to pass Joint Resolution 46 to send a message to Congress to provide a legal venue to reduce medication costs. I believe Senate Joint Resolution 46 will help give elders access to their medications. Similarly, I do not believe Senate Joint Resolution 46 would result in any public harm, or decrease in quality. The Pharmaceutical Marketing Access Act is an example of legislation that would provide safe medications to people who need them in a cost effective manner. This is a law that is way overdue.

Please share this letter with committee members.

Thank you,

Beverly Sigl Felten PhD, RN, APNP

19822 West Good Hope Road
Lannon, Wis 53046
Feb. 17, 2004

Senator Judith Robson
Post Office 7882
Madison, Wi 53707-7882

Dear Senator Robson,

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Thank you,

Beverly Sigi Felten PhD, RN, APNP

Beverly Sigi Felten PhD, RN, APNP

February 17, 2004

Senator Judy Robson
State Capitol PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Re: 2003 Senate Joint Resolution 46

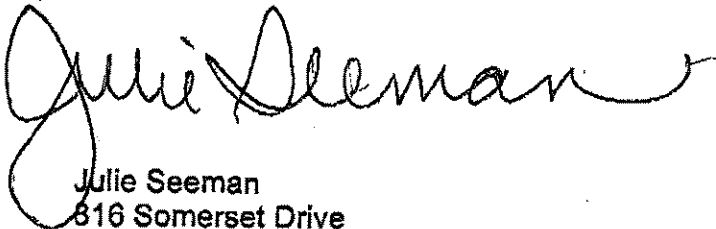
Dear Senator Robson,

I strongly support Senate Joint Resolution 46. I strongly support the Wisconsin Legislature to urge Congress to pass the Pharmaceutical Marketing Access Act.

I work with senior citizens on a daily basis who cannot afford to purchase the prescription drugs their doctors prescribe for them. Wisconsin Senior Care has helped, but has not alleviated the problem. The seniors who are between age 60 to 65, now fall through the cracks and are making hard choices between purchasing their prescription drugs or paying other necessary bills such as rent or buying food. My mother-in-law is one of these persons. She has emphysema and has no drug coverage to purchase inhalers that make the difference between life and death. She struggles to pay the exorbitant prices the pharmaceutical companies are charging, many times making those very difficult choices on what basic necessities to do without.

I also urge State Legislators to bring health care costs under control.

Sincerely,



Julie Seeman
816 Somerset Drive
Janesville, WI 53546

Feb 17, 2004

Judith Robson
State Senator
Madison, WI

Dear Judy Robson,

I am writing in response to your letter about Resolution #46. I am a retiree living on Social Security and my savings, and Have Medicare and a secondary insurance carrier.

I am having trouble making ends meet mainly due to the high cost of medical care and prescription drugs. At present, my secondary insurance pays for a portion of my drug costs, but I still have a co-pay of \$2450 a year. I sit and watch each year as the percentage of my income for medical expenses skyrocket. With my Medicare premiums for my wife and myself, and the premiums for my secondary provider, I find that I am spending 30% of my income for medical expenses. I can't do it much longer. I would like to see my money go further than it does now in regard to medicines. I think that not only the drugs should be available from imported sources, but that the drug companies should be forced to hold the line on manufacturing costs of their drugs. Looking back through my records for the past six years, I find that my premiums have almost doubled. (From \$4,000 to \$7000.)

Sincerely,

Carl A. Stewart

Carl A. Stewart
1923 Kellogg Ave
Janesville, WI 53546

libertas
disciplina / liberation through knowledge
CARTER & TARDOLA
EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS

February 17, 2004

Senator Judith B. Robson
State of Wisconsin
15th Senate District
State Capitol, Post Office Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Judy,

This letter is written in the interest of affordable health care for Wisconsin citizens, including prescription medication.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the hearing on Thursday, February 19; however, I wanted you to know that I support your work on urging the Congress to pass the Pharmaceutical Marketing Access Act or similar legislation allowing importation of regulatory-safeguarded medications.

Thank you for Senate Joint Resolution 46 and all that you do as our senator to bring about controlled health care costs and to make life better for your constituents.

Sincerely,



M. Elizabeth Tardola
Lead Consultant

843 Petunia Lane
Beloit, WI 53511

February 17, 2004

Judy Robson, State Senator
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Judy,

Thank you for working to pass 2003 Senate Joint Resolution 46.

It's imperative.

In our case, we rely only on Social Security and my teacher's pension. This testimonial letter is sent, knowing you're doing your best. We appreciate you, Judy.

Respectfully,

Donald + Harriett Hopkins

February 17, 2004

Judith B. Robson
State Senator
15th Senate District

Dear Senator Robson,

We are submitting a letter to be used as testimony in the hearing on February 18 to urge Congress to pass the Pharmaceutical Marketing Access Act or similar legislation to allow individuals, pharmacists and wholesale access to FDA-approved drugs from FDA -approved facilities from abroad.

We have experienced increased prices of drugs for both my husband and me. We feel the drug companies control prices in the United States. That is unfair because the same drugs that many of us take could be purchased from abroad.

When the new Prescription Drug Bill was passed as an improvement of Medicare Benefits Congress failed to give Seniors a choice of where they could purchase their prescriptions.

When Seniors have to choose between food and medications, it is time to allow purchase of drugs from abroad. This would also save the states monies that could be used for other health care provisions.

Our citizens deserve better and need relief of these high health care costs.

Sincerely,

Mary Lind
Floyd Lind
Mary Lind

*Floyd & Mary Lind
1402 Meadowlark Dr.
Greenville, WI 5354-1413*

19822 West Good Hope Road
Lannon, Wis 53046
Feb. 17, 2004

Senator Judith Robson
Post Office 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Robson,

I am sending this letter as testimony in support of Senate Joint Resolution 46. Persons needing medications face a huge burden related to the ever escalating costs of prescription drugs. As an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP) practicing with frail older adults, I see first hand the severe hardship elders experience in paying for their medications.

I have seen elders only take blood pressure medication every other day, as a means to afford taking the medication at all. I have met elders who have to weigh filling a prescription or buying groceries. This cannot continue.

I urge the Senate of the state of Wisconsin to pass Joint Resolution 46 to send a message to Congress to provide a legal venue to reduce medication costs. I believe Senate Joint Resolution 46 will help give elders access to their medications. Similarly, I do not believe Senate Joint Resolution 46 would result in any public harm, or decrease in quality. The Pharmaceutical Marketing Access Act is an example of legislation that would provide safe medications to people who need them in a cost effective manner. This is a law that is way overdue.

Please share this letter with committee members.

Thank you,

Beverly Sigl Felten PhD, RN, C, APNP

Beverly Sigl Felten PhD, RN, APNP

We are in support
of this.

Sherrill Mattingly

Janesville, WI 2/17/2004

2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

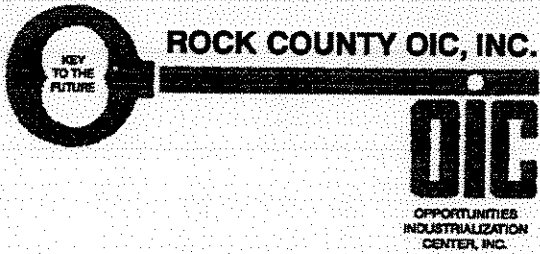
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2003 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 46

October 15, 2003 - Introduced by Senators ROBSON, BRESKE, CARPENTER, CHVALA, DECKER, ERPENBACH, LASSA and RISSER, cosponsored by Representatives SERATTI, BERCEAU, HINES, HUBER, LOTHIAN, MOLEPSKE, POCAN, TURNER, ZEPNICK, TAYLOR and MILLER. Referred to Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care.

- 1 **Relating to:** strongly urging Congress and the Administration to enact the
- 2 **Pharmaceutical Market Access Act** or similar legislation allowing individuals
- 3 and pharmacies in the United States to import and re-import prescription
- 4 medications purchased in other countries that have regulatory safeguards for
- 5 the manufacture and distribution of drugs comparable to regulatory
- 6 safeguards in the United States.
- 7 **Whereas, the practice of medicine has undergone a shift toward more**
- 8 **utilization of outpatient prescription medications for patients who in previous years**
- 9 **would have been hospitalized; and**
- 10 **Whereas, expenses for outpatient prescribed medicines increased from \$72.3**
- 11 **billion in 1997, or 13 percent of total medical expenses, to \$103 billion in 2000, 16**
- 12 **percent of total medical expenses; and**
- 13 **Whereas, between 1990 and 2001, prescription drug spending in the United**
- 14 **States grew by about 12 percent per year; and**



February 18, 2004

Judith B. Robson
State Senator 15th
Senate District
State Capitol P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Robson

This letter is in support for Senate joint resolution # 46 asking Congress to move ahead and pass the pharmaceutical marketing Access Act, or similar Legislation.

Please let me know if you have any further needs.

Respectfully



Walter R. Knight

February 18, 2004

Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care:

I am writing in support of SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 46, relating to the import and re-import of prescription drugs.

In light of the continued escalation in the cost of drugs, we need this relief and I am writing in support that the WISCONSIN legislature strongly urge Congress and the Administration to enact the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act or similar legislation.

I am an appointed guardian for a 60 year old widow on Medicare disability with a medagap policy without drug coverage.

Her drug costs were running \$235.00/month. By going through a Canadian Pharmacy with the physicians prescription requesting brand named drugs, her drug costs we \$83.00/month. That savings helps tremendously in keeping her finances balanced and has kept her off the Medicaid roles.

Thank you for considering my request.

Virginia Wyss
2202 Tradition lane
Janesville, WI 53545
(608) 752-3911
vwyss@ameritech.net

SJR 46

Testimony
2/19/04
Public
Hearings



PHARMACY
SOCIETY OF
WISCONSIN

"Leading Our Profession
in a Changing
Health Care Environment"

**Testimony before the Senate Committee on Health, Children,
Families and Long Term Care On Senate Joint Resolution 46**

**Tom Engels, Vice President of Public Affairs
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin**

The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin represents over 2000 pharmacists and pharmacy practices that all adhere to strict rules and regulations. Everyday pharmacists hear from their patients, especially the elderly, about the rising cost of prescription drugs. That is why PSW supports publicly funded and administered programs like SeniorCare, Medicaid, BadgerCare and the Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan.

However, the resolution before you today puts in the spot light an issue that has become a political hot potato. Before we even discuss the concerns with the issue of prescription drug importation, I believe it is beneficial to lay some groundwork by acknowledging that it is illegal, in almost every case, to import or facilitate the importation of prescription drugs from other countries. Senate Joint Resolution 46 urges federal action to change the law in order to allow for the importation of prescription drugs.

Any effort to import drugs from Canada or any other nation must be done in a cautious manner. Cynics may scoff at the notion that drugs coming from countries like Canada are not safe, in fact one person in a recent Senate debate commented, "Show me the dead Canadians." The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin never wants to come before this committee with a report of dead Wisconsin citizens due to imported medications.

We recommend that Senate Joint Resolution 46 include language that acknowledges the importation of prescription drugs is currently illegal. Requesting changes to current law is an appropriate approach to this issue but supporting or encouraging the violation of the law is not and the Wisconsin legislature should state that upfront.

For almost 100 years American citizens have been able to receive their prescription medications from a secure system that is the envy of the world. It is paramount that we maintain a safe and secure prescription drug distribution system in the United States. An open system of importation would greatly compromise that safety net.

PSW supports the concept, outlined in the resolution that would allow for licensed pharmacies to import prescription medications that have been certified as safe by the Food and Drug Administration or ones that have been maintained in such a secure system. However, widespread importation by individuals creates the potential for tampering and counterfeiting. It also eliminates the interaction between consumers and pharmacists. It is a practice that PSW does not support nor advocate.

Ron ... FBI (smiley face)
Please return ...
will hear his testimony

701 Heartland Trail
Madison, WI 53717
tele 608.827.9200
fax 608.827.9292
info@pswi.org
www.pswi.org

FEB 23 2004

CR Sw 2/17/04

February 19, '04

SJR 46

Senator Carol Roessler
Chairperson Health Committee
PO Box 7882-8953
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator:

Virginia and I were at the Hearing Thursday on Senate Joint Resolution 46 that supports requesting the Federal government to allow the re-importation of drugs into this country. As was your plan, the long-winded lobbyist from Canada spent so long controlling the floor in opposition to the Resolution than we could not stay long enough to hear the many "real" people from Wisconsin speak or to make a comment ourselves. So I am sending these remarks.

If people are encouraged to buy their prescriptions in Canada, it seems obvious that competition will soon result in the prices being the same here and it won't be necessary for us to buy there (The "free market" you know!). I have been purchasing Lipitor from Canada RX for a couple of years at about two thirds of the price at Walmart. It's no different than ordering at Walmart. I call it in, they contact my doctor for refills, but it takes a week to get here.

It's good that we take time to go to our Capital once in a while to see government in action to remind us how little some of you care what the heck the people want. You don't mind taking our tax money for your salaries and benefits, but you won't lift a finger for us. Must the pharmacies and drug companies be given their pound of flesh! This is one of the biggest rip-offs in the history of the world and it's being done to the oldest and weakest members of our society by one of the richest and most powerful groups of "fat cats" ever. I thought monopolies were illegal!?

We think Judy Robson should be nominated for sainthood for working so hard for the benefit of the common people. We were so impressed with how well versed she is on this subject and how well she can explain it for those willing to listen. By contrast, we were shocked by your rudeness to Senator Chvala. And while you let the Canadian jerk drown on for over a half hour, you chided the nurse who read a really interesting report that didn't take five minutes! You know, it really should be illegal to import Canadian lobbyist into this country to tell the people that it's "Just life" for people who get sick or die for lack of any way to buy prescription drugs!

My wife and I were impressed by the thoughtful and helpful questions of Senator Brown to the various speakers. Until this Hearing I had written off Chuck Chvala, but he showed us that he is still more caring than the likes of those who would try to spoil a good effort to help REAL PEOPLE in their struggle to survive when illness strikes.

Sincerely,

Ron Socwell

Ron & Virginia Socwell

CC:

Senator Judy Robson, Senator Brown, Senator Welch, Senator Kanavas, Senator Chvala, Senator Jauch, Senator Carpenter

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/19/04

BILL NO. Joint Resolution 46
OR

SUBJECT _____

David Parr
(NAME)

1284 Marquette St
(Street Address or Route Number)

Janesville 53546
(City and Zip Code)

Janesville Education Association
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Clerk

I was signed up to testify,
unfortunately I have to return to Janesville.
I will email Senator Roessler my testimony.

Thank you,

David Parr

david4462@aol.com

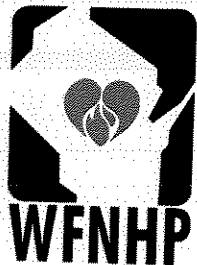
Dear Senator Robson,

Thank you for the invitation to the hearing on 2/19/04. I will be unable to attend but want you know that I support your efforts and the resolution.

As president of the Beloit School District board of education, I can tell you that we battle every day with health costs. Every effort must be made to lower this cost. Salaries and benefits make up over 80% of our budget. If we are to continue to focus on academic achievement for all children we must find some relief in our cost for staff. This is certainly a positive step forward.

Thank you for your continued interest and best wishes as this quickly moves through the process.

John Winkelmann
Beloit School Board



WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF NURSES & HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

9620 West Greenfield Avenue
West Allis, WI 53214-2645
414-475-6065
1-800-828-2256
FAX 414-475-5722

AFT, AFL-CIO

Testimony of Barbara Kelsey
Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
Wisconsin State Senate Health Committee
February 19, 2004

Good Morning,

My name is Barbara Kelsey. As president of the Milwaukee County Chapter of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, Local 5001, AFT, AFL-CIO, I represent many nurses and health care employees working for Milwaukee County. I am here today to urge your support of Senate Joint Resolution 46 which would allow the importing and re-importing of prescription medication from other countries such as Canada.

As a registered nurse working for Milwaukee County's General Assistance Medical Program, I am confronted daily with the insufficiency of our current health care system, including the devastating effects suffered by many because of the high costs of medications.

As part of my job, I review medical documentation. And, I have watched as the costs of prescription drugs have reached unprecedented, astronomical levels. I see the documentation regarding people who end up in the hospital because they simply cannot afford to get their prescriptions refilled; or, worse yet, they have no funds to see a physician in the first place.

What is one to do if they have Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, or HIV? These medications are among the most expensive medications sold, costing tens of thousands of dollars per year. Without the drugs now available, these individuals, who are often independent, working, active members of our society could become so disabled that they would be unable to dress or feed themselves, thus becoming totally dependent on others.

The drug companies do offer some patient assistance programs for these more costly medications, although these programs are limited to individuals earning 150% below the federal poverty level. In 2004, that means a single person earning less than \$1,164 per month. While this helps the neediest people in our society, the individuals caught in the middle, those not poor enough to qualify for the patient assistance programs—the working poor—receive no assistance and are unable to afford the medications. Additionally worrisome are the tens of thousands of people who are unable to get their blood pressure, diabetic, or ulcer medications, etc. even though these medications may only cost several thousand dollars per year. After paying for food, rent and utilities, it is easy to understand why there is no money left for medication, when one is on a low or fixed income. As you can clearly see, we are, each of us, on our own. We simply cannot afford to lose our jobs or be without health insurance.

In Senate Joint Resolution 46 it states that the cost savings to the Wisconsin taxpayer would be \$83 million. In 2003, Milwaukee County alone spent over \$28 million in pharmaceuticals for the Department of Corrections, the Behavioral Health Department, the General Assistance Medical Program, and employee and retiree benefits. If all the other Wisconsin counties participated in this program, the savings to Wisconsin taxpayers would be even greater.

The cost of health care is eroding our government services, and factors in the moving of industries and companies out of my community, where the cost of this care is the highest in the nation. As our economic base is further eroded, relief to the situation becomes dire. It is imperative that the state of Wisconsin step in and find a means of relief that will answer the needs of our citizens. A relief that includes bringing the cost of prescription drugs in the United States in line with the rest of the world, while maintaining the quality of the drugs offered to the public.

Not I, nor my employer, or any United States citizen should be expected to subsidize the rest of the world in drug research. In healthcare, we call this cost shifting. It is difficult for me to believe the drug companies are unable to absorb the cost of their research, when they can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars lobbying, advertising, and in solicitation of doctors, hospitals, pharmacists, and nurses.

Re-importation of drugs from Canada is a step in the right direction to keep our health care costs under control. We need other real reforms in our health care delivery system to make sure that every person has access to quality, affordable health care. I urge you to support Senate Joint Resolution 46. Thank you.

Wisconsin State Senator Judith Robson
Ref: 2003 Senate Joint Resolution 46

Feb 19, 2004

Senator Robson,
Following are a few comments in favor of passing this resolution.

The purpose is to allow importation of prescription drugs from F.D.A. approved facilities in at present, 26 countries.

This is an important start in relieving some of the exorbitant costs involved in healthcare today. Major revisions in our healthcare system are needed. The costs are overwhelming now, and are increasing. Too many people can't afford needed drugs, and other types of healthcare. Too many people are being made to choose between eating and healthcare, between having a home and healthcare. So many do not get the needed healthcare.

It is a national disgrace that 44 million Americans have no healthcare insurance, and for millions more, their coverage is inadequate. It does not provide coverages for basic needs

Everyone has, or knows of incidents. My own is about one of my younger brothers, who died of cancer last month. He had no health insurance, and couldn't afford to see a doctor. Most people don't want to ask for public assistance. So, when he became sick, he just ignored it and kept working. Eventually, he could not work, and he was hospitalized. But the cancer was now too advanced.

January 9, 2004, we were advised that my 53 year old brother had cancer. And it was terminal. He had hours, or days, possibly weeks, to live. January 22, he died.

My own situation concerns me greatly, in that in 2 years, my health insurance will end. Medicare will not cover my wife and children. The projected costs for healthcare insurance for my family is more than I can afford. But it's a basic necessity. So we'll have to cut back on expenses elsewhere. It may mean that college for my younger children may not be affordable. It will require drastic cuts in all other living expenses. I've worked all my life to care for myself and my family. Now in my retirement years, I can no longer provide my family the care and protection they need. And I'm just one of many millions of Americans in this predicament.

It's immoral that our governments are not only allowing persons and companies to make these obscene profits off the providing of these basic necessities for our citizens, but actually aiding them to drastically increase those profits. This is wrong.

Major changes are needed NOW!

Thank You

Rob Wilkinson

Robert Wilkinson

633 Milton Ave

Janesville, WI 53545

608-756-2039

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AGING AND LONG TERM CARE

FEBRUARY 19, 2004

2003 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 46

I am Susan Sutter, R.Ph., Vice-Chairperson of the Pharmacy Examining Board (PEB). Thank you for the opportunity to share the concerns our Board has with 2003 Senate Joint Resolution 46. From my perspective, what is most noteworthy in the resolution is the recognition of the fact that importation of prescription drugs from other countries is illegal. That point should be emphasized. Importation of prescription drugs from Canada or any other country is illegal. It violates both state and federal laws. Businesses that facilitate such illegal importation are aiding and abetting an illegal act.

The PEB agrees with many of the points made by the resolution but is very concerned with what is missing. There is a serious consumer protection issue being ignored by several Wisconsin state agencies in allowing uneducated, unlicensed individuals to operate storefront operations with the purpose of aiding and abetting the illegal importation of drugs from Canada. These individuals are violating federal law, the Wisconsin pharmacy practice act as well as Wisconsin's franchise laws. This resolution should acknowledge this safety risk and resolve that the responsible officials be directed to enforce these existing laws.

*We are very aware that many citizens, legislators and state officials do not believe, or do not want to believe, there are any consumer protection issues with importation. Recently, the state of Minnesota and their Board of Pharmacy sent surveyors to six Canadian pharmacies that are filling prescriptions for U.S. citizens. Their six-page memo outlined significant variation in adherence to minimum professional pharmacy practice standards as well as drug safety risks. As it relates to pharmacy practice, here are just a few problems found that are violations under Minnesota as well as Wisconsin law:

- All but one pharmacy allowed a prescription to be faxed to the pharmacy by the patient. This practice is not allowed in Minnesota or Wisconsin; only a prescriber is allowed to fax a prescription. One prescription could easily be faxed to multiple pharmacies.
- One pharmacy reported its pharmacists review 300 prescriptions per hour, or about one every 12 seconds.
- In one pharmacy, the pharmacist fills the prescriptions without viewing the original U.S. prescription, only an electronically generated prescription entered by a technician.

↑
non licensed individual

- Pharmacy technicians were working in several different buildings unsupervised by a pharmacist and the pharmacist to technician ratio far exceeded the allowed technician ratio.

As far as the integrity of the medications themselves, these were some of the practices that should raise serious concern as to the safety of these drugs:

- Medications, which had been returned to the pharmacy by U.S. Customs, were subsequently relabeled and reshipped to other American patients.
- Drugs requiring refrigeration were being shipped. When the surveyors questioned this practice, they were told that the pharmacy *believed* the products were stable for at least several weeks, even when not refrigerated. Only one pharmacy had documentation for this claim for the one product they were shipping.
- One pharmacy had no policy in place for drug recalls. When asked about this, the surveyors were told that the patient could contact the pharmacy about a recall if they wished.
- When the Minnesota surveyors questioned the potential impact of U.S. drug companies limiting shipments to Canadian pharmacies, the co-founder and president of one of the pharmacies, a non-pharmacist made the statement, **"we won't have any problem getting drugs, we have creative ways to get them."**

The last concern points to the core of the drug safety issue. Canada regulates the importation of prescription drugs to be dispensed to its citizens by having mutual recognition agreements with other nations. In 2003, 64 countries exported pharmaceuticals to Canada, despite the fact that Canada has mutual recognition agreements with only 18 countries. Since it would be illegal for a Canadian pharmacist to dispense these drugs to a Canadian citizen under Canadian law, one must question just what patients are receiving these drugs?

So, the final question - what professional standards are being adhered to and where are the drugs coming from when these Canadian pharmacies are paying Wisconsin storefront operators to channel unsuspecting citizens to their pharmacies? The work of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy certainly gives valid reasons to ask these questions and be concerned.

The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board agrees that the status quo is not good enough concerning the manufacturers' prices being passed on to U.S. citizens in this country. It is not good enough either to simply ignore the safety concerns of importation without putting proper regulation into place. We respectfully request that this resolution, if advanced, include the demand that our own state officials uphold their obligation to protect the citizens of Wisconsin, enforce the law, and close these storefront businesses. No government official or law enforcement officer should advocate, support or overlook the conduction of illegal activity just because they disagree with the law.

Where + who are getting the drugs from the other countries -

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AGING AND LONG TERM CARE

FEBRUARY 19, 2004

2003 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 46

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Paper Dr. Kamath; Krishna Duxter by Gov.
 Report from USFDA

Practice
 Sunday
 Amb
 and etc

- Pharmacy technicians were working in several different buildings unsupervised by a pharmacist and the pharmacist to technician ratio far exceeded the allowed technician ratio.

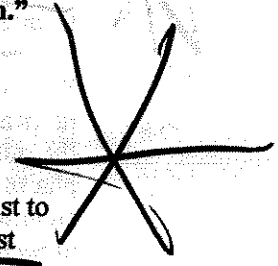
People
 sign off
 will be a
 sign off
 on the
 issue.

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What are
 imported
 drugs coming
 from Canada?

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What
 are
 these
 drugs
 coming
 from
 Canada?
 04/07/16

— thinking. NOT just a price issue — system is too — state officials

must
 enforce
 their
 obligation.

2-19-01
Hearings

SJR 46

Dr. Charles Benedict

- Supports
- Does not like pharm. co.'s advertising to consumers.
- had a cold / Clariton price ↑ + Walmart generic - same thing ↓

quest CR should U.S. govt be working w/ Pharm co's to offer reasonable prices rather than keeping system the same + re-importation.

- Well, he supports universal health care. Didn't really answer quest.

~~Brown~~

- Brown - also not happy w/ advertising done by pharmaceuticals.

Laurie Kidd

- Janesville
- recently disabled
- Insurance Co. won't cover 1 of her drugs because it's not for her primary injury
- Has to pay ¹¹¹200 a month for it
- gets SSI - only income.
- after drug payment + co-pays - she has \$300 a month

to pay for food, rent etc.

- She has a blood thinning drug - named brand works better than generic. Insurance co. wouldn't cover. HIESP is covering it.

~~She has~~

Barbara Kelsey

- Submitting ^{ed} written testimony

Dr. Jeffrey Thomas - Mto only

- Difficult problem
- Retired orthopedic surgeon
- Well Stone Clinic free clinic - opened by him.
- Quest. is, who is the bad guy.
- Story - couple came to clinic, elderly couple - wife losing weight for few weeks - she is SS he is on something. Referred her to urgent care. Bill was \$11,000 to care for her.
- He is 64, retired, no malpractice suits etc.

Sue Sutter Pharm. Exam. Br? - Submitting ^{written}

- Intro only
- Missing component - this is an illegal activity. Federally + violations of state franchise ~~act~~ acts going on.

Dr. Mettler?
~~Dr. Mettler~~ -
Illinois looking at purchasing drugs
83 p. Report online. Safe?

- MN memo - 6 pages of safety stes, that are not being followed.
- Canada only 2% of global mkt. Concern about amt. of drugs sent to Canada - they are being dispensed ~~to~~ to someone. Quest - What are drugs coming from?
- Consumers at Canadian drug stores in U.S. Sign away their legal rights to sue.
- Chwala - What are the percentage diff. between Canadian pharmacies + U.S. pharmacies?
She reiterated that she is here rep. the Brd - not Brd.'s responsibility to fix price problem.

Oliver Haase

- WI Council of Sen. Citizens
- Concerns re: Medicare Bill + presc. drug coverage.
- To ask for re-importation is not an American
- Medicare Reform bill is a sham. Congress must re-visit this.

CR quest.: WS Careng Sen. Citizens -
Chpt. in Fox Valley + Knoška + MKE
- Affiliates w/ alliance of retired citizens.

David Arbutnot

- Supports
- change needs to occur

John Graham (Vancouver Canada)

- The Fraiser Institute
- He has a paper - Sources, pub. by Fraiser Institute. We have a copy
- Big issue in Canada. Fear they will lose drug supply.
- CMS 196-199 survey found >3% of Medicare beneficiaries didn't get drugs needed - not all due to cost

* Text of Resolution, why price diff. exists, + importation ...

- Resolution has factual ~~or~~ errors -
H%

- CR wants copy of letter from Deputy minister in Can. that was disclosed in Washington Post.
- If the FDA + Canada Safety (Health Canada) have been talking for 2 yrs yet they don't feel comfortable to support re-importation

- Why do price diff exist:

* Diff in work production: U.S. - 1/3 more
(Canadians make less \$) Thus, lower prices for goods.

* Other things in U.S. cost more: Windows XP, cars etc.

* Someone has to pay for research + dev. ↑ income pay more ↓ ~~income~~ income pays less.

* Sugg. have feds remove patent law - allow generics to manufacture drugs.

* Price differentiation occurs all over the place

* FDA paper on counterfeiting (containers of mustard powder)

Can parallel marketing occur

- 39 wks longer than U.S. to approve ^{new} drugs for sale.

- Drug co.'s will reduce supply to internet pharmacies + Canada.

- Hospitals get ~~\$~~ drugs for less than they are sold to patients.

- Not a myth that there is a relationship between profitability + research + development.

- Money that goes into R+D comes from profits.

No profits - investors will pull out.

dmv
- Unfortunate US carries the can for whole world but that's just the way it is!

- Papers from GAO

- Demand that gov't gets best price.
- Reduce regulatory burden of FDA. (But our FDA approves faster than Canada).
- When pharm co's provides a discount to \$ low income - don't demand price for everyone.

~~Health Care~~

Canadian Pharmacy Soc. & Health Canada

Brown

What % impact on purch. drugs does Canada have
Ans. non. They have a patent review board ^{PMVRS} review ~~of~~ patents.
(Canada didn't have patent doc until 1989)
- Each province has their own plan. 30% insurance, some out of pckt. (whole country doesn't buy @ once). There is a move for a nat'l plan in Canada.

Geil Stepeti's

- Nurse
- Discussed samples that are provided
- free lunches etc. ^{phar} Companies give ~~decs~~ to nurses.
- Dean H.C. has obtained gifts from pharmaceuticals.

Judy Speece

- 1,038 an elderly woman she knows makes
- 9 pres.
- Receives COBRA

Gerald Martin - W.I. Council of Senior Citizens

- feels that the people who do need services, unfortunately, do not testify. His grp. represents these people,
- Can import food, people's cars - but not pres. drugs. - un American.
- No woman or child should have > coverage than members of Congress.

Michael Freiser Support

- works for general motors
- have good the coverage in union but realizes everyone is not has fortunate.

Rob Wilkerson

- Canadian testimony is biased

Bill Scanlon - Supports

- Platform Regulation Committee - Dem. Party.

John Bohlman

Providing testimony

Speaking for mts only.

Ty Bullard

Susan Grossenbach, RN supports

- Intern w/ Robson

Tom Engels → mts only provided testimony

- pharmacists caught in middle of debate.

- Deeply concerned about ^{us} pharmacist
involvement

Robson

Research + Dev.

↳ Profits

- Patent Periods

SB
244

Utah's missing
from Revolution is
that is illegal.

Consumer protest.

Revolution -
needs to

Responsible officials
need to be held to account.

Minnesota -

Memo

1- Professional pharmacy
standards - Pharmacy Rec.

Chicago

Reimproving
still illegal

PDA

★ want manufacturer to
keep interest

Rac

think of car once
you told.

Can

3 weeks longer than
approval than US.

8 Bmkt Canada
US 145B W1

5 many announced
going to L interest....

HOSPITALS —

9 of drug at 1/2 Price
manufacturer - Protective
Committee

One is in internet
we have no control
no regulator.

Packages sent to
Canada -

Price Regulator...

1989 - Patten Act.

40% - 50%
paid for Gov.

30% Private

20% out of pocket.

Barrier to entry
Regulatory Burden
Fed comments
~~Step 1~~

1) Leg. Price controls
Not a myth ~~provable~~
is research

Again Patent control
into R;D comes out
of profits. Inventions.

Take decisions. . . .

BAD GUY = US

GOVT.
Demand Gov.
get best price.

Better
Reg.

Speed up Rate of innovation
900 m
more impact.

Regulatory Burden
to FDA -

Reform medicine
Reimburse rules
Give many assurance
people who can't pay for

NOT STARTS OUT

~~USA~~

~~HOME~~

Resolution 46 -

Re importing: Parallel
trader or ramp of
intellectual property.

Factual errors website
16% total price Drugs
= 11% 2002

Canada \approx 68% less

Patent medicine =
reduction of 40%

40 = FACT.

FDA Drugs from FDA

OTTAWA - HOW CANADA

RDA McClean —
Uy PDL & CANADA
since 30's why —

Digg income
Am = 1/3 ~~or~~ more
productive
Canadian & <
very good & service
= less in automobile.
manufactures
Canadians can't pay
Price americans can —
Somebody has to pay.

Repeal Fatten Act.

Change certain prices
less —

Pay 40¢ — can't pay 1.00 can

Should get break —

DMR - Canadian
Med Assoc. Summer
break medicine.

SJR 46

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Asbjornson, Karen
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2004 1:04 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Thank you
CR email

Karen Asbjornson
Office of Senator Carol Roessler
(608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720
Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

T.U. - CR

-----Original Message-----

From: Marshland Pharmacies, Inc - Horicon [mailto:marshland@powerweb.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2004 7:05 PM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Thank you

Senator Roessler,

I just wanted to thank you for your kind remarks and the courtesy you showed me at the hearing today. I was a bit shocked at Senator Chvala's behavior and appreciated your handling of him.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on issues of common interest.

Thanks again!

Sue

Susan L. Sutter, R.Ph.
Marshland Pharmacies, Inc.
620 Washington Street
Horicon, WI 53032

(920) 485-3400

marshland@powerweb.net



Wisconsin Council of Senior Citizens, Inc.

2611 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215
(414) 385-9779 • Fax (414) 385-9807

FEB 24 2004

FEB 24 2004

February 23, 2004

SJR
46

The Honorable Carol Roessler
Office Room 130 South
State Capitol PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Roessler;

I want to thank you and your committee on behalf of our officers and members for the development of resolution 46 to be forwarded to our U S Senate and House. The Medicare "reform" needs revisiting and serious amending or complete change to begin to serve seniors in America. We seniors will not be fooled on this important issue affecting us. Re-importation of prescription drugs is an option that should be allowed under the new law along with price controls on drugs, however it is done. But more important, the law as written benefits HMO's and Pharmaceutical companies more than seniors. They will reap the profits from this law. One Wall Street analyst estimated an increase in drug sales by as much as 13 billion a year in the near future.

As you are aware, private insurance companies will cherry pick among the baby boomers as they come of age and dismantle Medicare in the process, leaving the older and sicker seniors in the traditional program forcing excessive costs while private plans are provided with billions of dollars of increased payments.

The arrogance and political power of the pharmaceutical industry was demonstrated by the presentation of the Vancouver, BC - economist, sponsored and paid by "Pharma," the drug industry lobby group at the hearing you held on February 19th. They spent 150 million lobbying congress and paid them handsomely with contributions of up to \$28,000 per congress person voting for the bill. This fact can be verified by contacting "The Center for Responsive Politics" a non partisan group.

We are aware this is not a state issue but we want to thank you and your committee for your courage and bipartisan action in trying to help change an immoral law passed by the congress and signed by the president.

You have touched the tip of the iceberg on drafting resolution 46 and we hope that enough bipartisan pressure will be brought to bear on congress to revisit this bad legislation.

Sincerely,

Oliver (Bob) Haase
Vice President,
Wisconsin Council

c.c Judy Robson



SJR46

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Hoxtell, Wade
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2004 9:01 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer; Asbjornson, Karen
Subject: FW: SJR46

Thank You
CR -
JH *

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Elmer [mailto:bjelmer@charter.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2004 5:27 AM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: SJR46

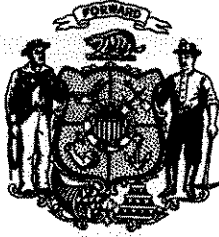
Dear Senator Roessler,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association, I am writing to thank you for scheduling a hearing on SJR46 this week. The costs of prescription drugs is of grave concern, and we all need to be working for a solution! SJR46 adds Wisconsin to the growing list of states that must relay this to Congress and the President. I respectfully request prompt executive action by the committee so that the resolution can be reported to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

Sincerely,

Jane Elmer
WREA Executive Director

FEB 24 2004



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

February 24, 2004

Senator Carol Roessler
State Capitol, Room 8 South
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Roessler,

We are writing to express our grave concerns regarding the public hearing held last Thursday by the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care.

As you already know, we felt it was disrespectful to force the dozens of individuals who drove an hour to testify on Senate Joint Resolution 46 to wait while Senate Bill 470—which you referred to as a “technical amendment”—was moved up on the calendar. The only testimony given on Senate Bill 470 was by you, a lobbyist, and a representative from the Department of Regulation and Licensing. This bill was introduced two days before the hearing was held and, according to our records, was not even circulated for co-sponsorship.

Although the Wisconsin citizens who came to testify on Senate Joint Resolution 46 were not allowed to read their testimony to the committee, the Canadian PhRMA paid to testify at the hearing spent over half an hour reading his prepared testimony, daring to insult every senior citizen in the state by alleging that they spend more on alcohol, tobacco and pets than they spend on prescription drugs.

Despite a call for “questions and comments,” we were repeatedly interrupted and told to refrain from commenting on the legislation before us at this hearing. As committee chair, however, you interrupted Janesville resident Ty Bollerud each time he came forward to testify, engaging in a dialogue with him and telling him that his opinions were incorrect.

We are hopeful that, as chair of this committee, you will show more consideration at upcoming hearings for Wisconsin citizens who are not paid to testify, but who come to their State Capitol to participate in the legislative process by providing the committee with their input on pending legislation. We also are hopeful that you will show more respect for your colleagues, acknowledging our right to question witnesses and comment on matters before the committee.

Sincerely,

JUDY ROBSON
State Senator
15th Senate District

CHUCK CHVALA
State Senator
16th Senate District

TIM CARPENTER
State Senator
3rd Senate District