

2003 SENATE RESOLUTION 31

1 **Relating to:** strongly urging Congress and the administration to address the
2 significant price disparity in the international trade of brand-name
3 prescription drugs by creating a safe and legitimate program for prescription
4 drug importation or through negotiated trade agreements with other
5 industrialized nations.

6 Whereas, the practice of medicine has undergone a shift toward utilization of
7 outpatient prescription medications for patients who in previous years would have
8 been hospitalized, and, therefore, prescription drug spending is increasing over that
9 period; and

10 Whereas, prescription drug spending in the United States is increasing by up
11 to 12 percent each year and accounts for approximately 11 percent of all health care
12 spending, exceeding \$200 billion in outpatient prescription drugs in 2003; and

13 Whereas, Americans pay drug prices that are 30 to 300 percent higher than that
14 paid for the same drugs in Europe and other industrialized nations, and Canadian
15 drug prices average 68 percent less than American prices; and

1 Whereas, the United States provides the world's greatest financial support for
2 discovery of new medicines through research grants; and

3 Whereas, individuals who pay high prices for prescription drugs may leave
4 their prescriptions unfilled, thereby compromising their health and leading to more
5 costly medical intervention; and

6 Whereas, many consumers are seeking less expensive prescription drugs by
7 importing them from other countries; and

8 Whereas, the importation of prescription drugs by U.S. businesses and
9 consumers is illegal and potentially unsafe because such practice occurs outside all
10 state and federal regulations governing manufacture, distribution, and dispensing
11 of prescription medicines in this country; and

12 Whereas, the effect of prescription drugs becomes questionable when the high
13 cost prevents consumers from obtaining needed drugs or they are forced to use less
14 than prescribed; and

15 Whereas, all U.S. health care consumers must be assured of a safe and secure
16 system of prescription drug distribution; and

17 Whereas, licensed and regulated local professionals must remain a critical part
18 of our drug distribution infrastructure; and

19 Whereas, all purchasers of prescription drugs, including individual consumers,
20 managed care organizations, insurers, and employers, would benefit from a
21 reduction in the cost of prescription drugs in the U.S.; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the Wisconsin senate petitions Congress and
23 the administration to implement a system to allow licensed U.S. pharmacies and
24 distributors to participate in the importation of medications from pharmacies and
25 pharmaceutical wholesalers licensed and regulated in a manner deemed comparable

1 to the United States, enabling Wisconsin consumers to access lower-cost drugs while
2 obtaining medicines from local providers; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin senate urges Congress and the Administration
4 to develop long-term solutions to bring down the price of prescription medications
5 so people are not forced to make alternative prescription drug choices; and, be it
6 further

7 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to
8 the president of the United States, the secretary of the U.S. department of health and
9 human services, the secretary of the Wisconsin department of health and family
10 services, and to all members of Wisconsin's congressional delegation.

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(END)