



**Newsletter: June 2019**

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We have an URGENT need for personal stories from people in COLORADO. If you live in Colorado and are willing to share your story, please email us at [info@personalimportation.org](mailto:info@personalimportation.org).

As you may have seen in the news, numerous states are leading the charge to enable Americans to import their medications safely and affordably from Canada. Big Pharma is looking for ways to block their efforts, now is the time to stand up for your rights!

Join the fight TODAY!

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**Question of the Month:** Why do you believe that Americans should be able to import their medications safely and affordably from Canada?

Email us your thoughts at [info@personalimportation.org](mailto:info@personalimportation.org)

[Please note that we will be posting and sharing your comments anonymously. If you do not want them to be made public, please let us know in your email.]

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**May Question of the Month:** How long have you been ordering your medications from Canada and do you have any safety concerns?

**Highlighted Comments:**

I will say from the beginning that I am "so far" fortunate enough to not need any expensive meds right now, I only take two generic meds that just cost about \$20 a month, but that could change at any time. BUT--my late husband of over 53 years got all his meds from Canada for over 20 years and NEVER had a problem with any of them. He had several expensive (in USA) prescriptions for his heart and blood pressure and we got them all from Canada. We never had prescription insurance because the cost of the insurance was more than the meds. We never had a problem with any of them and I trusted the company we dealt with. - *Linda via email*

## June 2019 Continued

...I have been purchasing prescription medicines from Canadian pharmacies for over 10 years for my pets (dogs & cats). The main reason, and only reason, for using Canadian pharmacies instead of U.S. pharmacies is cost. As an example, a 30-day asthma inhaler cartridge for my cat is \$245 (without insurance) from a U.S. pharmacy, while the same medication is only \$35 from a Canadian pharmacy. Now the question, is it safe to purchase from Canadian pharmacies? I can only answer by saying that I have had no issues on the medications ordered for my pets during the past 10 years. Even if I had a safety concern, are my pets better off with a Canadian medication (safe or not) or with “no” medication from a U.S. pharmacy because of it being unaffordable? – *Fred via email*

I have been ordering one of my prescriptions from Canada for approximately two years. To get it through my insurance it would cost over \$100 per pill (\$300+ for a 90-day supply) and going to Canada I pay \$37 (no shipping) for the exact drug. – *Shirley via email*

Been ordering for 10 years and never had to worry about anything. I started ordering duloxetine (generic Cymbalta) from Canada when the price spiked in the U.S. one year. (That spiking should not have been allowed.) The government then fined me about \$9 dollars a month for not having drug coverage for three years. Now each month I have to pay for drug coverage plus my \$9 fine for my new drug, budesinide, which is not covered. It would cost me out of pocket \$1,400, but I get it from Canada for \$270. Basically, I feel that I am being extorted by the drug companies who had our bought-and -sold- for representatives make a law that we had to buy drugs from the U.S. as soon as we go on Medicare. So now I pay for drug coverage, pay an additional fine, don't use the coverage, buy my drugs from Canada and wonder how this corruption is still allowed.- *Dianel via email*

Have been ordering from Canada for two years. Their prices are always the lowest and I have never had a single issue or problem. – *Cathy via email*

I'm a retired Pharmacist and a snowbird. I've used Canadian Pharmacies for some of my prescription needs and have never been disappointed. I would make sure that the Pharmacy requires a prescription from your doctor. Otherwise it's off the approved Pharmacy register. To brand Canadian Pharmaceuticals contaminated or bogus is to say Canada is a 3rd world country!! Big Pharma is putting out a lot of nonsense to protect their stockholders and their unconscious pricing policies. – *Dennis via email*

Been buying Canadian prescription drugs since 2004. Prefer their quality brands over the ones here in the States. – *Christine via email*

I have ordered my medication from Canada for years. There has never been a problem. I'm so thankful I could take advantage of the savings afforded me by ordering from Canada. – *Jewel via email*

## June 2019 Continued

We have ordered our drugs [from Canada] for three years. The experience involves NO worry or problem with drug importation – *Susan via email*

Have ordered from Canada off and on for a decade. When you do, you can view the country in which meds are produced and choose. No concerns. – *Jo via Facebook*

5 years no concerns – *Steve via Facebook*

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### Social Media Posts of the Month:

#### Facebook – May 18

Thank you to Senator Sanders for pointing out that 1 out of 5 Americans can't afford Rx prices – it is time for change! As he points out, the core problem with health care is that it produces enormous profits for insurance and drug companies. "Last year the top 10 drug companies, for example, made \$69 billion in profit," said Senator Sanders. <https://tinyurl.com/y5nzw36q>

#### Twitter – May 10

Here's a good question – why do Americans pay more for their [#pharmaceuticals](#) ... we would love to hear a legitimate reason! <https://tinyurl.com/yy7vount>

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### From our blog:

#### HIV PREVENTION DRUG: BILLIONS IN CORPORATE PROFITS AFTER MILLIONS IN TAXPAYER INVESTMENTS

May 16, 2019

Does this headline make anyone else furious? It should... but if it doesn't, you may want to educate yourself on some Bad Pharma atrocities that have gone unchecked.

Rather than a headline, this is the name given to a House Oversight hearing that was held today, and can be viewed [here](#).

## June 2019 Continued

Even though Congress has held numerous hearings on high drug prices over the past several months, we wanted to take a moment to highlight this hearing as there are numerous patient groups who are participating and involved in making sure that this corporate bad behavior is brought out of the shadows and into the light.

Unfortunately for Big Pharma, the devil is in the skyrocketing pricing details:

- One Big Pharma company in particular was the focus of this hearing. The company owns the patent on a transformative HIV prevention drug that can save and change lives. But it was brought out in the hearing that the government primarily funded the development of the drug through public taxpayer funds. What gives?
- Patient assistance programs are often used as cover for these companies, yet in reality patients continually report that the programs are not very helpful or useful for accessing medications. What gives?
- The medication costs almost \$2,000 in the U.S. each month, yet people in Australia pay \$8 and some countries offer it for even less. What gives?

Here's what was painfully obvious in this hearing – Excuses via slick messaging intended for the uneducated ain't working. There aren't many uneducated people out there anymore, particularly in these Congressional Hearings since the playbook has been overplayed and is way past worn out.

Real people are suffering and dying when there are medications available but not widely accessible, while Big Pharma continues to increase their profits. Case closed... or at least it should be.

You can watch the full hearing [here](#).

June 2019 Continued

**OP-ED: FLORIDIANS AREN'T NAÏVE ABOUT HIGH DRUG PRICES**

*May 14, 2019*

The Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel published our op-ed today, *Floridians Aren't Naïve About High Drug Prices*.

The headline is in reaction to all the misleading messages from opponents of importation who claim that Americans are naïve and don't do their homework when ordering their medications. In reality, these opponents are usually the same people who are benefitting from skyrocketing high drug prices and have a vested interest in making sure prices stay high.

Not only does our community tell us repeatedly that they do all the appropriate due diligence in seeking out safe and affordable medications, but they also tell us that they are wise to the dubious ways of Big Pharma in trying to use smoke-and-mirror messaging to protect their profits at the expense of struggling Americans.

In the op-ed, we share the story of Dr. Jack Winberg, who has been ordering his medications from licensed, legitimate online pharmacies in Canada for many years:

*Jack Winberg, a retired physician who lives in South Florida, has been importing medications from Canada for several years. In the U.S., the cost for all of his medications would be \$400 but in Canada, the cost is only \$180, which means that he saves approximately \$220 per month. His doctor has never had any concerns that the medications in Canada are any different than the medications in the U.S. and supports his decision to import his personal prescriptions from licensed, legitimate online pharmacies.*

Sharing his story, and the stories of other people who regularly purchase their medications from Canada, helps to illustrate the realities of personal prescription importation.

To share your story, please visit this link: <https://personalimportation.org/tell-your-story/>

## June 2019 Continued

If you are willing to use your full name and you would like us to include you in a future op-ed, please email us at [info@personalimportation.org](mailto:info@personalimportation.org).

Read the full op-ed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4nhznb9>

## PERSONAL IMPORTATION CONTINUES TO WORK

*May 9, 2019*

Florida recently passed a bill to allow importation from Canada (see story here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4kprlpn>).

While it is promising that lawmakers are looking toward importation as a solution to high drug prices, implementation can be challenging and as they say – the devil is in the details.

Previous attempts to import medication have been hampered by the influence of Big Pharma and others who are against importation to implement legislation to ensure failure. Unfortunately, implementation is often a long and arduous process filled with empty promises.

While we are hopeful that change is coming, personal importation is working today for many Americans who are able to import their medication safely and affordably.

Don't believe us? Listen to our community – [here](#) and [here](#).

Please support Rx Importation efforts and encourage elected officials to affect positive change to lower high drug prices once and for all – write to them today by visiting our [Contact Congress](#) page.

If you or someone you love is struggling to access safe and affordable medication, please know that there is a solution available TODAY through personal importation from licensed, legitimate online pharmacies in Canada. To learn more, click [here](#).

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## June 2019 Continued

**Please take a moment to reach out to your elected official** to make sure that they do not lose sight of protecting the rights of all Americans to access safe and affordable prescription medication by visiting our Contact Congress page at <https://personalimportation.org/contact-congress>.

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### **Take Action – We would love to hear from you!**

We are currently looking for personal stories to highlight the need for access to affordable and safe prescription medications to policy makers and thought leaders who can make a difference. Please share your story by visiting [this link](#).

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### **About the Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation**

<https://personalimportation.org>

The Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation (CPPI) is a national nonprofit patient advocacy organization that fights for Americans' access to safe, affordable prescription medications from Canada for personal use. Tens of millions of Americans – especially the elderly and others on fixed incomes – struggle to pay the extremely high price of prescription medications in the U.S. We are here to be their voice.

Millions of Americans use licensed Canadian pharmacies annually, to purchase their daily prescription medications at an affordable price. We believe that all Americans have a right to affordable medications. It is time to change the current U.S. policy on this issue to provide immediate access to life-saving medications, taken daily for chronic health conditions, at affordable prices.

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