

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &  
CHIEF POLICY OFFICER

1615 H STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20062  
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June 6, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce believes it is important to maintain the safety and integrity of America's drug supply and, therefore, strongly opposes any amendments that may be offered to H.R. 2430, the FDA Reauthorization Act (FDARA) of 2017, that would allow the importation of foreign pharmaceuticals into the United States or that would undermine the preemptive authority of federal food and drug regulations.

Changes in law to allow individual importation and distribution of drugs not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) could put Americans at risk by opening America's drug supply to unsafe, counterfeit, or sub-standard medicines. The results could range from an increased flow of foreign drugs of unknown origin that differ from U.S. versions, to weakened intellectual property protections in circumvention of existing international standards. Attempts to legalize importation in this way would prevent the FDA from ensuring the safety and effectiveness of America's medications.

According to a [report](#) released today, the potential for lower drug prices for a small percentage of Americans would pale in comparison to the potential costs to the safety of American consumers and the integrity of the prescription drug supply chain, as well as the increased burden on U.S. law enforcement that would impact communities across the country. Additionally, and equally alarming, are predictions that importation proposals would intensify the country's current opioid crisis which "has already grown substantially worse due to the powerful opioid fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-laced counterfeit pills being produced by illegal drug trafficking organizations, including in China, and reaching the United States through Canada and Mexico." Despite common stipulations that controlled substances would be ineligible for importation, importation would actually increase threats in this area, according to this report, "due to the masking/mislabeling of illegal opioids, increased profit opportunities, low penalties faced by criminals, and insufficient law enforcement resources."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Report on the Potential Impact of Drug Importation Proposals on U.S. Law Enforcement, Freeh, Sporkin, and Sullivan, LLC, Freeh Group International Solutions, LLC.

The Chamber strongly opposes any amendments that may be offered to the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 that would allow the importation of foreign pharmaceuticals into the United States or that would undermine the preemptive authority of federal food and drug regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil L. Bradley", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Neil L. Bradley

cc: Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce