



Safeguarding America's Pharmaceuticals Act

June 30, 2008

Counterfeit medicines represent a serious and increasing threat to our nation's public health and safety. Through unregulated and illegitimate sources, including rogue internet Web sites, patients can become unknowing victims of a criminal network of counterfeit, adulterated or misbranded medicines.

We believe several steps are critical to address today's challenges and ensure progress in our ongoing effort to enhance patient safety and to ensure the integrity of the supply chain. These thoughtful and measured steps are included in the *Safeguarding America's Pharmaceuticals Act*, H.R. 5839. This comprehensive, bipartisan legislation would:

- Provide the Food and Drug Administration with the authority to destroy counterfeit, adulterated, misbranded or otherwise illegal prescription medicines that are made for sale in the United States or diverted from our highly regulated supply chain;
- Establish a single, national pedigree requirement. This would simplify the current patchwork of overlapping legislation that currently exists in over 28 states and would document the chain of custody of all prescription medicines;
- Require the unique identification of individual medicines to permit the electronic tracking and tracing of products from the manufacturer, to the distributor, to the pharmacy or other healthcare provider;
- Increase the federal standards for distributor licensure while maintaining traditional state roles in licensing, regulation and enforcement.

The following organizations support H.R. 5839 and believe Congress should act to further safeguard the manufacture, distribution and dispensing of prescription medicines.

American Veterinary Distributors Association
 Biotechnology Industry Organization
 Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 California Healthcare Institute
 Cephalon, Inc.
 Eisai
 Endo Pharmaceuticals
 Health Industry Distributors Association
 Healthcare Distribution Management Association
 Johnson and Johnson
 Merck & Co., Inc.
 Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 National Coalition of Pharmaceutical Distributors
 Purdue Pharma L.P.