



January 18, 2021

Members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee:

On behalf of the organizations below and the thousands of North Dakota patients we represent, we urge you to proceed with caution when considering HB 1250 and other similar Canadian drug importation proposals.

Ensuring patients have access to affordable medicines is critical. However, the importation of medicines from Canada - or elsewhere in the world - poses a serious risk to public health and safety that should not be ignored. Importing prescription medications could lead to a host of unintended consequences, including opening our borders to a dangerous supply of counterfeit drugs. Additionally, there is no guarantee that any potential cost savings from these proposals will be passed on to patients.

The patients we work with on a daily basis rely on their medications to keep them healthy. The possible dangers of importing drugs, even from seemingly safe places such as Canada, simply carry too great a risk. No HHS Secretary – regardless of political party – has been able to certify that imported medicines are safe, nor have they been able to certify actual savings for patients. We urge you to focus on real solutions that directly addresses out-of-pocket cost for North Dakota patients.

Sincerely,

Community Liver Alliance

Family Voices of North Dakota

North Dakota Nurses Association

WomenHeart Jamestown