

AARP Supports Importation to Make Drugs More Affordable

16 June 2004

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 was a milestone in helping millions of older Americans with the high cost of drugs.

But much more needs to be done to make drugs more affordable for everyone. Prescription drug prices in America are too high, and too many people who need drugs still can't afford them. Importation of prescription drugs into this country is one way to help Americans save money on their medications.

That's why AARP is supporting S. 2328, the bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and 22 cosponsors, including Senator John McCain, (R) Arizona, that would legalize the safe importation of prescription drugs from other countries, beginning with Canada.

It's no longer a question of whether we should allow the importation of drugs from abroad. It's already happening on a large scale. Millions of AARP members and others are buying drugs from other countries. We need to legalize this, and make sure that a system is in place to guarantee safety.

The Dorgan-Snowe bill contains several important provisions. The bill

- allows individuals, pharmacies, and wholesalers to import drugs from Canada with a phase-in to some European Union countries
- provides safety protections for consumers
- requires wholesalers and pharmacies to register with the FDA
- seeks to prevent pharmaceutical companies from shutting of supply to those who engage in importation.

We will work aggressively to get this bill passed this year. [Help us by contacting your Senators](#) and asking them to co-sponsor S. 2328, the prescription drug importation bill. If your Senator has already signed on to co-sponsor this important, bi-partisan legislation, please thank them for their support.