



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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The Oregon Board of Pharmacy has issued the following statement regarding Oregon store front businesses that solicit drug therapy patients to hand over prescriptions to be filled in Canada.

The Oregon Board of Pharmacy has become very concerned that a significant health risk is facing Oregonians because of a documented increase in the sophistication and number of attempts to introduce counterfeit drugs into the U.S. drug supply and the increasing threat of drug contamination related to terrorist activities. Also, the increasing occurrence of prescription drugs being illegally introduced into the state by unregistered Canadian and other foreign pharmacies and their affiliated prescription solicitation businesses has fueled the Board's concern. These store front "prescription brokers" are not pharmacies and their employees are not pharmacists. They have no training in drug therapy, drug product selection, drug storage, shipping and handling or health information privacy. And, they are operating outside the law. There is no guarantee the drugs they procure for Oregon patients actually come from Canada as advertised.

Canadian pharmacists are prohibited by Canadian laws from dispensing prescriptions written by U.S. Doctors. They are also prohibited from sending prescription drugs into U.S. states by federal and state laws. Sections 301 and 505 of the Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act prohibit the introduction or delivery for introduction or causing the introduction into interstate commerce any drug that is adulterated, misbranded or is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Oregon Pharmacy Act, ORS 689.305, requires that any pharmacy distributing drugs within or into the state must register with the Board of Pharmacy. As of this date, no pharmacy outside the U.S. is registered in Oregon.

The Board recognizes that the high cost of prescription drugs has caused serious access problems for many Americans and agrees that something must be done immediately to address this access issue. However, ignoring state and federal drug laws and the health risks associated with unregulated drug importation is not the answer. Opening our borders to risky and illegal importation of drugs from foreign sources, especially in the current era of heightened security due to threats of terrorist activity, only serves to magnify and multiply the health risks, and distracts our lawmakers and policy makers from implementing real and lasting solutions.

The Board of Pharmacy is the sole Oregon agency authorized and required by law to regulate the practice of pharmacy and the distribution of drugs "in the interest of public health, safety and welfare". The Board suggests to all concerned Oregonians that you talk with your doctor and pharmacist about the cost of your medications and the alternatives that might exist, and to contact your legislators to urge passage of real health care reform legislation now that will address your access to legal, safe and effective prescription drugs in your own country. Think carefully before you subject yourself to unnecessary risks by seeking prescription drug services from illegal foreign mail order or internet sources.

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