

[House of Representatives](#)

[Home](#)

[What's New](#)

[Biography](#)

[District Information](#)

[Constituent Services](#)

[Contacting Me](#)

[Press Office](#)

[Meet with Me](#)

[Issue Focus](#)

[Legislative Information](#)

[Federal Government Sites](#)

[Just for Kids](#)

[Photo of Congressman Sensenbrenner](#)

July 25, 2003

Bharwani

**388 Words
5101**

Raj

(202) 225-

A Prescription for Cheaper Drugs

With very few exceptions, prescription drugs are expensive. I not only hear this sentiment expressed frequently when I'm in Wisconsin meeting with my constituents, but I also know this to be true personally because of my trips to the pharmacy.

This high cost of prescription medicine is placing a burden on American consumers, particularly our seniors, and as a result, many of them are turning to Canada, instead of their neighborhood pharmacy, for their prescription drugs. To assist our nation's seniors by helping them purchase their medication at a lower rate, in the early hours of July 25, the House passed HR 2427, the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2003. I supported this bill, which passed by a vote of 243 to 186.

The Pharmaceutical Market Access Act will enable American consumers to purchase Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved prescription drugs at world-market prices. This bill strengthens America's commitment to maintaining the safest pharmaceutical drug market in the world by requiring all prescription drugs produced at home and abroad to use counterfeit-resistant packaging, similar to the technology used by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In addition, HR 2427 contains language written by the FDA that requires wholesalers to test each pharmaceutical shipment, unless the packaging already uses counterfeit-resistant technology. The FDA's strict language was specifically written to address the safety of imported pharmaceuticals from anywhere in the world. But that being said, one should be aware that the quality control on these drugs is not identical to FDA control on drugs sold in this country. There is some risk involved and consumers need to be mindful of it.

If HR 2427 becomes law, it will help drive drug prices down without

cost to taxpayers. And again, while there are some legitimate safety concerns about this practice of importing prescription drugs, the same can be said of most other products we import. I believe HR 2427 recognizes these concerns, but more importantly, I support allowing American seniors and others to determine if this option is right for them. The Pharmaceutical Market Access Act does not **require** American consumers to purchase prescriptions from another country, it provides them with the option of being able to do so, and that's why I supported it.

###

Flag Line Graphic