



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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SUFFOLK SENIORS PRESENT BISHOP WITH 4,000 PETITIONS TO LEGALIZE DRUG REIMPORTATION

Seniors Speak out to Receive Prescription Drugs from Canada

Middle Island- Seniors from throughout Suffolk County and Congressman Tim Bishop are mad about the high price of prescription drugs and don't think they should have to take it anymore. On Monday in an event at Birchwood at Spring Lake, Bishop was presented with more than 4,000 petitions from Suffolk County seniors urging urging legalization of safe, affordable prescription drugs from Canada. The event was hosted by the Birchwood at Spring Lake Women's Club.

Despite overwhelming public opinion, reimportation of drugs was banned in the recently passed prescription drug bill which Bishop opposed. However, the bill gives Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson the ability to exercise a waiver and allow the drugs, which he has said he opposes. Bishop told the seniors that he will take their petitions to Secretary Thompson and urge him to allow reimported drugs from Canada.

“I want Secretary Thompson and other leaders to listen to our seniors who are saying they want the right to safe, affordable prescription drugs from Canada,” Bishop said. “I will continue to personally apply pressure and fight to reverse the ban on reimportation, so our seniors can afford the high cost of prescription drugs.”

One of the speakers at the event was Saul Kline of Coram, he and his wife have been receiving reimported Canadian drugs for years, saving the couple who live on a fixed income, thousands of dollars.

“I have been taking these drugs for years, and I trust the safety of these drugs with both my life and my wife,” Kline said. “There is no reason other than the profits of big drug companies that reimportation is not legalized.”

Bishop noted that some opponents of reimportation have cited safety concerns. However, Bishop noted that Republican Congressman Gil Gutknecht (Minnesota) recently questioned the Food and Drug Administration about the number of Americans who died after taking drugs shipped from Canada, the number was zero.

“This is not an issue that needs further study; such a study will serve no purpose other than to prolong the undue financial hardship faced by seniors in need of prescription drugs,” Bishop said.

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Bishop provided a chart that showed as of September 30, the difference in the prices of some popular prescription drugs in the United States versus the price of the product in Canada.

Drug	Treatment	U.S.	Canada	Savings (percentage)
Casodex	Prostate cancer	\$403.99	\$166.21	\$237.78 (59%)
Coumadin	Prevents blood clots	\$99.99	\$43.58	\$56.41 (56%)
Detrol	Overactive bladder	\$109.99	\$45.16	\$64.83 (59%)
Dilantin	Seizures	\$27.99	\$4.49	\$23.50 (84%)
Fosamax	Osteoporosis	\$65.99	\$30.46	\$35.53 (54%)
Glucophage	Diabetes	\$135.99	\$23.98	\$112.01 (82%)
Permax	Parkinson's	\$211.99	\$78.36	\$133.63 (63%)
Prednisone	Allergies	\$42.29	\$8.93	\$33.36 (79%)
Tamoxifen	Breast cancer	\$61.99	\$9.04	\$52.95 (85%)
Vioxx	Arthritis and pain	\$91.99	\$35.62	\$56.37 (61%)
Wellbutrin	Depression	\$109.99	\$27.53	\$82.46 (75%)
Zocor	High cholesterol	\$51.99	\$23.23	\$28.76 (55%)

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