



March 8, 2021

Members of the House Human Services 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 SB 2209 and other similar Canadian drug importation proposals. Meanwhile, we urge you to support SB 2212 and study these extremely complex issues.

Ensuring patients have access to affordable medicines is critical. However, permitting wholesalers and pharmacists to import medications from Canada — or elsewhere in the world — poses a serious risk to the public's health and safety that should not be ignored. Such proposals undermine important regulatory protections provided by manufacturer oversight and 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 without manufacturer authorization, even from seemingly safe places such as Canada, simply carry too great a risk. Nor is importation the solution to lowering patient costs. We urge you to focus on real solutions that protect the safety of the drug supply and directly address out-of-pocket costs for North Dakota patients.

Sincerely,

Community Liver Alliance

North Dakota Nurses Association

WomenHeart Jamestown