

Statement of Daniel Chiasson, President & CEO
Canadian Association for Pharmacy Distribution Management
SB 2209/2212, North Dakota Human Services Committee
By invitation of the chair on January 27, 2021

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I submit the following testimony on behalf of the Canadian Association for Pharmacy Distribution Management (CAPDM). I am Daniel Chiasson, the President and CEO of CAPDM.

The Canadian Association for Pharmacy Distribution Management (CAPDM) represents the country's leading national and regional pharmaceutical distributors. CAPDM and its members share the priority of ensuring a safe, high quality and stable supply of medications for Canadians. We sympathize with the struggle American patients face accessing affordable medication.

We have reviewed the legislation you are considering, SB 2209 and 2212, that would enact a program to purchase medicine from the distributors and wholesalers of Canada. CAPDM represents the sellers you intend to purchase from. We are not supportive of any policy initiative or policy proposal that has the capacity to threaten the stability of medications available to Canadians, or worsen instances of already serious drug shortages.

The Canadian drug supply is insufficient for the Canadian market, let alone trying to divert it to a much larger market like the U.S.¹

We oppose these proposals because Canada is in the midst of drug shortages that started before the pandemic and has only gotten worse since then. Any program to fulfill demand from the US side of the border would endanger Canadian patients and put us squarely at odds with our federal regulators who oppose programs like this and recently issued new regulations to discourage any interest in selling our drug supply to the U.S.

We are sympathetic to Americans struggling to afford healthcare costs, but this is not a workable solution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ <https://www.capdm.ca/Issues/Drug-Shortages.aspx>