

107TH CONGRESS
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H. RES. 26

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the disparity between identical prescription drugs sold in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI (for himself and Mrs. EMERSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the disparity between identical prescription drugs sold in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Whereas according to the General Accounting Office, a consumer in the United States pays on average one-third more for a prescription drug than a consumer pays for the same drug in another country;

Whereas according to the General Accounting Office, costs for prescription drugs between 1993 and 1998 increased an average of 12.4 percent per year as compared to an increase of 5 percent per year for health care expenditures in general;

Whereas currently one-third of senior citizens in the United States are without prescription drug insurance, and these

individuals pay on average 15 percent more for a prescription than do citizens with prescription drug insurance coverage;

Whereas it is difficult for many Americans, including senior citizens, to afford the prescription drugs that they need to stay healthy;

Whereas many senior citizens in the United States leave the country and go to Canada or Mexico to buy prescription drugs that are developed, manufactured, and approved in the United States in order to buy such drugs at lower prices than such drugs are sold for in the United States;

Whereas the United States has made a strong commitment to supporting the research and development of new drugs through taxpayer-supported funding of the National Institutes of Health, through the research and development tax credit, and through other means;

Whereas the development of new drugs is important because the use of such drugs enables people to live longer and lead healthier, more productive lives;

Whereas citizens of other countries should pay a portion of the research and development costs for new drugs, or their fair share of such costs, rather than just reap the benefits of such drugs; and

Whereas many State governments are undertaking a variety of plans to address the needs of citizens who lack affordable drug coverage: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives that the cost disparity between identical pre-

- 1 prescription drugs sold in the United States, Canada, and
- 2 Mexico should be reduced or eliminated.

