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Kennedy's Capitol Report

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Resolution Would Allow Americans to Buy Cheaper Prescription Drugs

Kennedy Calls on Republicans to Co-Sponsor Resolution

One of the most pressing issues for seniors today is affordable prescription medication. Last year, Missourians spent almost \$4 billion on prescription drugs. A disproportionate amount of that was spent by seniors. The top 50 drugs most commonly used by seniors has risen in cost faster than the rate of inflation every year for a decade. Some of these drugs rise at a cost that is six or seven times the rate of inflation.

We live in a global economy. That is a fact. The only disputed point is will the global economy only work to the benefit of the giant corporations, or will it work for you and me? I am advocating that the global economy work for the consumer, especially the senior drug consumer. You deserve the right to cheaper, safer pharmaceuticals, and I will fight for you.

The federal government of the United States currently denies its citizens the right to bargain for lower prescription drug costs with Canadian sources. By allowing states, businesses and individuals to purchase FDA-approved prescription drugs from Canada. It is my belief that millions of dollars would be saved every year. The average savings to individuals would be \$1,000 per year.

A free-market economy allows consumers to buy the best products at the lowest prices. That is why I'm asking my Republican colleagues to sign on, so we can send a strong, unified message to Washington, D.C.

The federal government argues that it cannot guarantee the safety of Canadian drugs. However, reports consistently indicate that Canadian drugs are as safe, if not safer, than those purchased in the United States.

We know this is not the solution to the healthcare crisis facing this county. But it is a start.

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