

October 8, 2003

As U.S. Prices Continue to Increase, Seniors Look Elsewhere for Their Pharmaceutical Prescription Drugs

Dear Colleague:

Currently, American consumers pay as much as 5 or 6 times more for their prescription drugs than citizens in Canada, Germany, and many other industrialized parts of the world. For instance, women who are suffering from breast cancer and are taking Tomoxifen to save their lives pay \$134 for a 30-day supply in my home state of Indiana, while in Germany the cost is just \$60, and in Canada the cost is as low as \$33 for the very same product. Not only is that outrageous, it is just plain wrong.

I would like to commend your personal attention to the attached article from yesterday's edition of *USA Today*, entitled "*Once just a trickle, Canada's Rx drugs pouring into USA*," written by William M. Welch. This article does an excellent job of explaining why it is critical for Members of Congress to work together with the pharmaceutical industry to finally bring fair pricing to the worldwide prescription drug market. In addition to the attached article, I am displaying a chart that illustrates the price disparity of commonly purchased drugs in the U.S. and Canada.

Comparing U.S. and Canada prescription drug prices

Drug	Treatment	Dosage, quantity	U.S.	Canada	Savings (percentage)
Casodex	Prostate cancer	50 mg, 30 ea	\$403.99	\$166.21	\$237.78 (59%)
Coumadin	Prevents blood clots	10 mg, 100 ea	\$99.99	\$43.58	\$56.41 (56%)
Detrol	Overactive bladder	2 mg, 60 ea	\$109.99	\$45.16	\$64.83 (59%)
Dilantin	Seizures	30 mg, 100 ea	\$27.99	\$4.49	\$23.50 (84%)
Fosamax	Osteoporosis	70 mg, 4 ea	\$65.99	\$30.46	\$35.53 (54%)
Glucophage	Diabetes	850 mg, 100 ea	\$135.99	\$23.98	\$112.01 (82%)
Permax	Parkinson's	0.25 mg, 100 ea	\$211.99	\$78.36	\$133.63 (63%)
Prednisone	Allergies	50 mg, 100 ea	\$42.29	\$8.93	\$33.36 (79%)
Tamoxifen	Breast cancer	10 mg, 60 ea	\$61.99	\$9.04	\$52.95 (85%)
Vioxx	Arthritis and pain	25 mg, 30 ea	\$91.99	\$35.62	\$56.37 (61%)
Wellbutrin	Depression	100 mg, 60 ea	\$109.99	\$27.53	\$82.46 (75%)
Zocor	High cholesterol	5 mg, 30 ea	\$51.99	\$23.23	\$28.76 (55%)

Sources: USA TODAY research; U.S. prices from www.walgreens.com; Canada prices from www.canadarx.net. Prices as of Sept. 30.

As we continue to debate this important issue, I hope that you will keep this information in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Burton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent than the last name "Burton".

Dan Burton
Member of Congress