

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

December 16, 2011

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Feinstein and Sessions:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, applauds the introduction of S. 2002, the "Online Pharmacy Safety Act," and your continued leadership on this important issue.

Preventing the sale of dangerous and illegal counterfeit medicines online is a top priority of the Chamber. Consumers expect medication to provide relief, remedy, or disease management; counterfeit medications create substantial health risk for consumers when they are most vulnerable. No counterfeiting practice is more dangerous than selling phony medicine to unwitting consumers. The issue is particularly important, as more and more Americans are shopping online for medications.

Websites run by counterfeiters are becoming increasingly sophisticated and it is difficult for a consumer to tell the difference between legitimate online retailers and illegal counterfeiters. Often illegal online pharmacies have the "look and feel" of legitimate pharmacies, claim to be endorsed by government agencies, and even display phony licenses. These illegal online pharmacies accept credit cards, offer online support, and provide counterfeit medicine marked with trusted brand names. Behind the facade of legitimacy, these rogue illegal online pharmacy sites are peddling dangerous counterfeit medications and offering products without a prescription.

S. 2002 would address illegal online pharmacies in two major ways. First, it would clearly define a "valid prescription" for non-controlled substances, eliminating ambiguity regarding the legality of some activities. Second, it would create a "white list" of approved safe online pharmacies; a vital tool for those who want the convenience and savings of shopping online for medicine. These changes would mark an important step in protecting Americans who shop for medications online from being exposed to counterfeit medications and bogus operators. With these changes, legitimate online pharmacies would be able to distinguish themselves from illegal counterfeiters.

The Chamber supports S. 2002 and appreciates your leadership on this important issue and looks forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Josten" being the most legible parts.

R. Bruce Josten