

By Senator Fasano

11-401-03

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Senate Memorial No. \_\_\_\_

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to enact legislation repealing laws that prohibit importation of large quantities of prescription drugs to the United States in order to open the market for prescription drugs to competition from foreign manufacturers and create opportunity for the public to purchase prescription drugs at lower prices.

WHEREAS, nearly 20 percent of all Floridians are senior citizens who are 65 years or older, and

WHEREAS, most senior citizens are dependent on prescription drugs to maintain their health and well-being, and

WHEREAS, Atorvastatin Calcium, also known as Lipitor, a drug prescribed to reduce and manage cholesterol levels, sells for \$1.88 per pill in the United States, but sells for 86 cents per pill in England, 74 cents per pill in Italy, 69 cents per pill in Germany, and 60 cents per pill in France, and

WHEREAS, Omeprazole, also known as Prilosec, a drug prescribed for treatment of acid-reflux disease, chronic heartburn, ulcers, and other conditions caused by excessive stomach acid, sells for \$3.69 per pill in the United States, but sells for \$1.31 per pill in England, \$1.34 per pill in Italy, \$1.39 per pill in Germany, and \$1.22 per pill in France, and

WHEREAS, laws presently in effect in the United States prohibit importation of large quantities of prescription

1 drugs, thereby depriving the persons within the United States  
2 of reasonable opportunity to purchase prescription drugs  
3 manufactured in foreign countries at prices lower than those  
4 charged for prescription drugs manufactured in the United  
5 States, and

6 WHEREAS, such laws conflict with the precepts of a free  
7 market economy, unduly restrict the market for prescription  
8 drugs available to persons within the United States, and  
9 unfairly deprive such persons of reasonable opportunity to  
10 purchase prescription drugs at the lowest price possible, NOW,  
11 THEREFORE,

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13 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 That the Congress of the United States is respectfully  
16 requested to enact legislation repealing all laws prohibiting  
17 importation of large quantities of prescription drugs for  
18 resale in the United States in order to make such drugs  
19 available to the persons within the United States at a cost  
20 competitive with the costs incurred by the residents of  
21 England, Italy, Germany, and France.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
23 delivered to the President of the United States, to the  
24 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
25 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
26 the Florida delegation to the Congress of the United States.

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