

By: Senator J. Sturch
By: Representative S. Smith

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE
UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER
INTO INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS FOR
MEDICATIONS.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
AND THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO
INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS FOR
MEDICATIONS.

WHEREAS, the United States accounts for more than one-third (1/3) of the global pharmaceutical market and affects almost every single person in the world; and

WHEREAS, in a nation with rising healthcare costs, ensuring that American citizens benefit from pharmacology is essential to improving the nation's healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration is responsible for protecting the public's health by assuring consumers that the pharmaceutical drugs approved in the United States are both safe and effective; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has a highly



stringent, costly, and lengthy approval process for pharmaceutical drugs; and

WHEREAS, the approval process through the United States Food and Drug Administration does not allow American citizens access to potentially life-saving medications that have already been approved in other countries, such as the United Kingdom, whose pharmaceutical regulatory system is similar to that of the United States; and

WHEREAS, by enacting an international reciprocity agreement for medications, the United States could automatically approve drugs that have been approved in other countries and potentially save millions of lives; and

WHEREAS, international reciprocity agreements would make available numerous needed alternative drugs for drugs that are in shortage in this nation; and

WHEREAS, enacting international reciprocity agreements for medication would coincide with the spirit of the Right to Try Act, § 20-15-2101 et seq., which allows the use of investigation drugs, biological products, and devices for Arkansas citizens who have terminal illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the United States Food and Drug Administration should take action to preserve the health of all citizens of this nation by allowing access to all medications approved by countries with similar pharmaceutical regulatory systems,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Senate of the Ninety-Third General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, the House of Representatives concurring, encourages the United States Congress and the United States Food and Drug Administration to enter into international reciprocity agreements to make more medications approved by countries with similar pharmaceutical regulatory systems available to save the lives of the citizens of this nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided by the Secretary of the Senate to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the majority leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.