



Grover G. Norquist

President

June 25, 2004

The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 115
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Carcieri:

I write today to urge your veto of two bills that would endanger Rhode Islanders and cripple medical innovation. House Bill 7630 and Senate Bill 2160 would allow for the importation of dangerous and illegal price-controlled prescription drugs from Canada.

Importing medicines from Canada is tantamount to importing foreign price controls. Price controls will hurt Rhode Island's current and future economic growth. Your leadership has helped turn Rhode Island into a biotechnology-based center of activity. For example Amgen, the world's leading biotech company, employs over 1000 Rhode Islanders. Importing Canadian price controls will cripple this progress. Who will invest in a state with socialist price controls?

As a business leader, you know that price controls never work—supply is merely reduced. Innovation and cures for the future will be halted as research capital dries up. Nearly one out of five Rhode Islanders is over age 60. Can Rhode Island afford to leave those people without an adequate drug supply today or new miracle cures tomorrow?

Importation also threatens the health of Rhode Islanders. Neither the FDA nor the Canadian government will guarantee the safety of the drugs coming across the border. It is also illegal under current federal law.

The importation of price controls is not a reasonable solution to the issue of access to affordable prescription medicines. They will damage the recovering Rhode Island economy, deprive the elderly of needed medicines, and imperil the safety of Rhode Islanders. I strongly urge you to veto HB 7630 and SB 2160.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist
President

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