

ASOP Global Statement on Texas Northern District Court Decision Revoking FDA Approval of Mifepristone

WASHINGTON, DC – April 11, 2023 – In response to last Friday’s decision by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Amarillo Division, on *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration* the Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies (ASOP Global) Board of Directors released the following statement:

Judge Matthew J. Kacsmaryk’s decision to revoke U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for mifepristone undermines nearly 120 years of FDA legal authority and threatens the health and safety of American women.

Since 2009, ASOP Global has studied and documented illegal online drug sales. We know that patients buy from unknown, unlicensed, and unsafe internet drug sellers for reasons of cost, convenience, and access to care. Revoking legal access to mifepristone – or any FDA-approved medication – will drive Americans to illegal online sources and put their health at serious risk.

Immediately following the Supreme Court ruling on *Dobbs*, Google searches for abortion medication in the U.S. skyrocketed. This is deeply troubling given that 95% of the roughly 35,000 online pharmacies operating worldwide do so illegally, violating U.S. law and pharmacy practice standards. Illegal online drug sellers peddle substandard, counterfeit, misbranded, or diverted drugs sold outside the safe, regulated U.S. supply chain. These fakes often contain dangerous – even deadly— ingredients like paint thinner, tar, and fentanyl. To make matters worse, Americans have a false sense of security when purchasing medications online, with 45% erroneously believing all websites offering healthcare services or prescription medicines via the Internet have been approved by FDA or state regulators.

ASOP Global is all too aware of what happens when access to FDA-approved medicine is limited – counterfeiters and illegal online drug sellers step up to fill the void at the expense of patient safety as they have done every time legal access to medication is constrained, from Tamiflu in the early 2000s to oncology medications in the 2010s to Adderall shortages now.

Instead of eliminating access to safe, legitimate, FDA-approved drugs, decisions about drug safety should be left to expert agencies like the FDA, who perform evidence-based reviews of medication through well-established processes designed to determine whether patients should have access to a specific medication.

To learn more about the public health risks of online pharmacies and counterfeit drugs, visit our [Bad Meds](#) campaign.

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ABOUT ASOP GLOBAL

The Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies (ASOP Global), a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., with activities in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Latin America, and Asia, is dedicated to protecting consumers around the world, ensuring safe access to medications, and combating illegal online drug sellers.