



## **CNBC Investigation Exposes Risks of Illegal Importation Schemes: ASOP Global Board Members Weigh In**

A new [CNBC investigation and documentary](#) highlights a troubling trend: alternative funding programs (AFPs) that steer U.S. patients toward illegally imported prescription drugs. These programs, now used by private employers, cities, school districts, and unions, promise dramatic savings on high-cost medications. But as the reporting makes clear, those savings come with serious and often hidden risks.

**ASOP Global Board members [Leigh Verbois](#) and [Lori Mayall](#) were featured prominently as expert voices, helping the public understand why these schemes endanger patient health and undermine the safety of the U.S. drug supply chain.**

### **Experts Warn: “There’s no gray area”**

Leigh Verbois, former Director of the FDA’s Office of Drug Security, Integrity, and Response, explained that AFPs fall well outside the bounds of federal law:

*“There’s no gray area when the product is approved in the United States and they are being commercially purchased and brought into the U.S.”*

She emphasized that the FDA’s personal importation policy does not cover AFPs shipping foreign versions of FDA-approved drugs directly to patients.



*ASOP Global Board Member Leigh Verbois speaking with CNBC’s Melissa Lee*

### **Foreign Drugs = Russian Roulette**

Lori Mayall, who leads anti-counterfeiting and product security at Gilead Sciences, underscored what happens once a medication leaves the legitimate supply chain:

*“Every time you’re taking a foreign medicine that’s been delivered from overseas, you’re playing a game of Russian roulette.”*

Her expertise was highlighted through a case involving a Maryland patient who unknowingly received HIV medication sourced from Turkey, labeled in Turkish, and completely outside FDA oversight.



*ACLA Global Board Member Lori Mayall in CNBC’s “RISKYRx” documentary*

### **Patients Caught in the Middle**

CNBC’s reporting shows AFPs:

- Source medicines from unauthorized international supply chains
- Create significant delays, sometimes weeks or months, in accessing treatment
- Require patients to accept drugs of unknown origin
- Exploit confusion about FDA policies
- Leave patients and employers exposed with contracts that disclaim responsibility
- In the most extreme cases, AFPs even fly patients to foreign countries to pick up their own medications.

These practices are illegal, but more importantly, they put vulnerable people with cancer, multiple sclerosis, HIV, and other chronic conditions at risk.

### **ASOP Global’s Mission Remains Clear**

The inclusion of ASOP Global Board members in this national investigation underscores our leadership in protecting the integrity of the U.S. drug supply chain.

ASOP Global will continue working with government agencies, patient groups, technology companies, and industry to ensure that all patients receive safe, FDA-approved medications from verified sources.

Watch the documentary [here](#).