

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair, House Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
Chair, Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Statement for the Congressional Record – Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies (ASOP Global)

House Committee on Energy & Commerce, Subcommittee on Health Hearing: “Policies to Protect Our Communities from Illicit Drug Threats”

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Griffith and Ranking Member DeGette:

[The Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies \(ASOP Global\)](#) is pleased to submit a statement for the Congressional Record for the Health Subcommittee Hearing: "Policies to Protect Our Communities from Illicit Drug Threats." ASOP Global is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization that seeks to protect patient safety globally and ensure access to safe, legitimate online pharmacies in accordance with applicable laws. ASOP Global is active in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

ASOP Global appreciates the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s continued attention to the threats posed by illicit drugs, which continue to undermine US public health and national security. While today’s hearing focuses on these dangers broadly, it is essential to highlight that the online space is a key, and often overlooked, channel through which illicit substances are sold and distributed to unsuspecting consumers.

Today, patients are increasingly turning to online pharmacies, telemedicine platforms, and direct-to-consumer healthcare services – options that can be essential when used safely and legally. But consumers also are enticed to buy medicines and supplements from social media posts, online marketplace offers, and stand-alone websites, often without understanding the risks. Since 2020, the ASOP Global Foundation has conducted national survey examining consumer perceptions and behaviors surrounding online pharmacies. The most recent survey, conducted in 2025, found that 38% of U.S. adults have purchased prescription medicines online, even though 66% consider using medicines purchased online risky—a 22% increase from 2023.

Most consumers purchasing drugs online are not seeking medications containing illicit substances, such as fentanyl, nitazenes, or xylazine – they’re ordering medications they believe to be safe and trusted. That trust is often misplaced. While 87% of U.S. adults acknowledge the serious health risks of counterfeit or substandard online medicines, 65% falsely believe all websites offering online Rx/health services are reviewed/approved by FDA

or state regulators, and 51% assume that only safe, verified sellers appear on the first page of search results.¹ The consequences are real: 27% of those who have purchased prescription medicines online report having personally received substandard/counterfeit medicine or being harmed by a medicine they bought online.²

For these reasons, ASOP Global would like to commend the committee for working to advance legislation that directly addresses the issue of illicit drug threats in the U.S.

With regard to H.R. 2715, the Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act, ASOP Global supports the principle of giving greater destruction authority to FDA. According to our survey, 76% of those who have purchased prescription medicines online say they trust only medicines intended for the U.S. market, yet 59% of online purchasers report buying medicines they believed were shipped from or intended for sale outside the U.S.; and 91% knew/suspected this before purchase.³ Bad actors exploit weaknesses in shipping declarations and regulatory loopholes, confident that many shipments will go undetected. Current procedures often require holding and adjudicating dangerous products rather than swiftly destroying them – inadvertently allowing rogue manufacturers to "port shop" and reship the same products back into the U.S. Streamlining the seizure and destruction of unapproved or adulterated medicines must be a priority. We recommend that any legislation addressing administrative destruction of these illegal medications be aligned with FDA's policy recommendation, given its advantages for implementing the policy once enacted. We stand ready to engage with the Committee and stakeholders to help achieve that alignment.

Should you or your staff have any questions related to illicit drug threats in the U.S., please view ASOP Global as a resource. We look forward to working with you to advance public health and patient safety. **Please visit [ASOP Global's website](#) for additional information on our work to help protect patients from illegal online drug sales.**

Sincerely,

Leigh Verbois
Chair of ASOP Global Board

¹ <https://asopfoundation.pharmacy/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ASOP-Foundation-2025-Consumer-Behavior-Survey.pdf>

² <https://asopfoundation.pharmacy/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ASOP-Foundation-2025-Consumer-Behavior-Survey.pdf>

³ <https://asopfoundation.pharmacy/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ASOP-Foundation-2025-Consumer-Behavior-Survey.pdf>