

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2466

To require the United States Trade Representative to enter into negotiations to eliminate price controls imposed by certain foreign countries on prescription drugs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2000

Mr. GORTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To require the United States Trade Representative to enter into negotiations to eliminate price controls imposed by certain foreign countries on prescription drugs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The United States leads the world in the
6 discovery and development of new prescription medi-
7 cines to help and heal patients.

8 (2) The National Institutes of Health lead the
9 way in basic biomedical research conducted in-house

1 and sponsored in academic institutions. Basic re-
2 search advances knowledge about human biology and
3 disease. The National Institutes of Health is funded
4 through appropriations of general revenues.

5 (3) The use of price controls by foreign govern-
6 ments on innovative medicines distorts trade, dis-
7 advantages Americans, and constitutes an unjustifi-
8 able, unreasonable, and discriminatory practice that
9 burdens or restricts United States commerce within
10 the meaning of section 301 of the Trade Act of
11 1974.

12 (4) Prescription medicines today are often an
13 effective therapy to help and heal patients and,
14 therefore, access to prescription medicines at afford-
15 able prices is important for Americans.

16 (5) The price controls maintained by foreign
17 governments on innovative medicines undermine the
18 value of intellectual property rights held by Amer-
19 ican research institutions and pioneer pharma-
20 ceutical manufacturers.

21 **SEC. 2. ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE INEQUITIES IN PHARMA-**
22 **CEUTICAL TRADE.**

23 (a) NEGOTIATIONS.—The United States Trade Rep-
24 resentative, with the advice of and in consultation with
25 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall enter

1 into negotiations with the Governments of the other G–
2 8 countries in order to achieve the agreement of those
3 Governments to eliminate price controls on innovative
4 medicines and the unfair trade practices that result from
5 the application of price controls.

6 (b) CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL
7 ACTIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—If, within 12 months after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, negotiations under
10 subsection (a) have not achieved the objectives set
11 forth in that subsection, the United States Trade
12 Representative shall submit to Congress rec-
13 commendations for the most effective measures (in-
14 cluding the effect of imposing measures under the
15 authority of section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974)
16 for eliminating the disparity between the price of
17 prescription drugs in the United States and the
18 price of prescription drugs in the other G–8 coun-
19 tries with the goal of reducing the price of prescrip-
20 tion drugs for United States consumers.

21 (2) MEASURES RECOMMENDED.—The measures
22 recommended under paragraph (1) shall be of a na-
23 ture and amount that fully reflect the economic
24 harm that is inflicted on patients and health care in
25 the United States, and the harm that is inflicted on

1 the United States economy when countries pay the
2 country specific marginal costs of prescription drugs
3 and let the United States cover the research and de-
4 velopment costs of innovative prescription drugs.

5 (3) CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL TRADE
6 COMMISSION.—In determining the measures to rec-
7 ommend under paragraph (1), the United States
8 Trade Representative shall consult with the Federal
9 Trade Commission and shall also seek the advice
10 of—

11 (A) the United States International Trade
12 Commission regarding the extent of the direct
13 and indirect harm to the United States econ-
14 omy;

15 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human
16 Services regarding the extent of the direct and
17 indirect harm caused to American patients and
18 health care;

19 (C) the relevant private sector advisory
20 committees established under section 135 of the
21 Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155); and

22 (D) representatives of appropriate inter-
23 ested private sector and other nongovernmental
24 organizations.

1 (c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
2 term “G-8 countries” means the group of 8 industrial
3 countries consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Great
4 Britain, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States es-
5 tablished to facilitate economic cooperation.

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