

## **MEDIA ALERT: BENNET, GROUPS TO URGE CONGRESS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF U.S. DRUG SUPPLY**

WASHINGTON – Following a record number of drug recalls in 2009, the Pew Prescription Project, in collaboration with **Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)** and consumer and manufacturing groups, will hold an audio news conference urging Congressional action to ensure the safety and quality of U.S. drugs. The call is scheduled for 9:30 AM MT / 11:30 AM ET on Tuesday, August 3.

Before the call, Senator Michael Bennet will introduce legislation to boost consumer safeguards against adulterated drugs. The groups, including AARP, American College of Physicians, Consumer Union and the Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates, will send a join letter urging Congress to grant the U.S. Food and Drug Administration more oversight authority to police the pharmaceutical supply chain.

**WHAT:** News conference on the need for drug safety legislation

**WHEN:** Tomorrow, Tuesday, August 3, 2010  
9:30 AM MT/ 11:30 AM

**WHERE:** Conference call number, **1-800-311-9403**  
Pass code, **RECALL**

**WHO:** **Senator Michael Bennet** (D-CO), sponsor of the Drug Safety and Accountability Act

**Brant Zell**, chairman, Bulk Pharmaceuticals Task Force, Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates, Riverside, PA.

**Marcia Hams**, director, Prescription Access and Quality, Community Catalyst, Boston, MA

**Allan Coukell**, director, the Pew Prescription Project, Washington, D.C. (moderator)

In 2009, the number of drug recalls, 1,742, increased 400 percent from 2008. The majority of recalls involved issues related to manufacturing quality. As the pharmaceutical supply chain becomes increasingly global, quality becomes even more difficult to control. Nearly 80 percent of all active pharmaceutical ingredients now originate outside the United States, often from countries such as China and India.

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*The Pew Prescription Project is an initiative of The Pew Health Group to promote consumer safety through reforms in the approval, manufacture and marketing of prescription drugs. For more information, please visit [www.prescriptionproject.org](http://www.prescriptionproject.org).*