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## **Cracking Down on Pharmaceutical Cargo Thefts Helps Ensure Integrity of U.S. Drug Supply System**

**Washington, D.C. (March 10, 2011)** — Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Assistant General Counsel Kendra Martello today issued the following statement:

“The safety and integrity of the U.S. drug supply system should be of paramount concern to policymakers, patients and health care stakeholders alike. The introduction of the SAFE Doses Act signifies an important step forward in helping secure our supply chain, which has become increasingly vulnerable to pharmaceutical, medical device and over-the-counter drug cargo thefts.

“PhRMA, along with its partners in the Coalition for Patient Safety and Medicine Integrity, commend Senator Schumer and his Senate colleagues for their leadership in cracking down on criminal activity that threatens patient health and safety. Cargo and warehouse thefts of medical products and treatments should be taken very seriously – such activity can compromise our closed distribution system and lead to dangerous health consequences for patients battling disease.

“Keeping the U.S. drug supply system closed – and secure – will remain a top priority for PhRMA and the Coalition as we continue to work with other private partners and government officials on ways to prevent diverted and counterfeit medicines from being introduced into the legitimate supply chain.”

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) represents the country’s leading pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, which are devoted to inventing medicines that allow patients to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. PhRMA companies are leading the way in the search for new cures. PhRMA members alone invested an estimated \$45.8 billion in 2009 in discovering and developing new medicines. Industry-wide research and investment reached a record \$65.3 billion in 2009.

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PhRMA Internet Address: <http://www.phrma.org>

For information on how innovative medicines save lives, visit: <http://www.innovation.org>

For information on the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, visit: <http://www.pparx.org>

For information on the danger of imported drugs, visit: <http://www.buysafedrugs.info>  
For more information on public health emergencies, visit <http://www.rxresponse.org>

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*Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America*

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