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Vitter Introduces Drug Reimportation to “Mini-bus” Spending Bill

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Sen. David Vitter today offered an amendment to the U.S. Senate “mini-bus” Appropriations bill that would allow Americans to import FDA-approved prescription drugs from Canada into the United States. Vitter’s amendment expands upon previous language he authored and passed that allowed for the physical importation of medications from Canada and will also allow Americans to order prescription drugs over the Internet and by mail.

“Health care costs are on the rise, thanks to Obamacare, but my reimportation legislation puts affordable drugs within the reach of Americans,” Vitter said. “Obamacare is proving to be a failure and will leave Americans, particularly senior citizens, struggling to manage the costs of paying for expensive drugs. Reimportation will provide them with some relief and a means to gain access to the medicines they need but so often cannot afford.”

Vitter’s amendment will allow U.S. citizens to buy FDA-approved prescription medicines at a lower cost from Canada either in person or via the Internet and ship or carry them back into the United States.

Vitter successfully offered a similar amendment to the 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill and the language was subsequently signed into law, effectively ending the practice of Customs and Border Patrol agents seizing legal prescription drugs from Americans attempting to bring them into the United States. However, the 2007 language was limited during the House and Senate conference process to only cover personal transportation of drugs from Canada. This new provision expands on Vitter’s 2007 language and allows Americans to order legal prescription drugs over the Internet for shipment to the United States.

In 2009, Vitter again [attached provisions](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124724848777024423.html) (<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124724848777024423.html>) to the Homeland Security appropriations bill that would have allowed U.S. citizens to import FDA-approved drugs from Canada by Internet, mail order, and on their person. In 2008, he also secured a vote on the Budget Resolution demanding the need for comprehensive reimportation legislation.