Dear Representative:

I write to you as the Executive Director of <u>Prescription Justice</u>, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending the crisis of high prescription drug costs.

As a registered Republican, I believe in commonsense policies to lower drug prices in America. Importation of lower-cost, FDA-approved medications from Canada is a great step in the right direction. For that reason: **We urge you to vote yes on House Bill 163.**

The situation with drug prices is a national crisis. Last year, <u>45 million Americans</u> did not fill a prescription due to cost. The study envisioned under H.B. 163 will show unequivocally that wholesale pharmacies in Canada sell the same medications we buy here, but at much lower price. It will also show how we can properly ensure its safe distribution to meet the full requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, including Title II of the Drug Security and Quality Act.

The importation of lower cost medications would only begin *after* the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies the program as safe, as permitted under current federal law. Additionally, the medications from Canada must be FDA-approved, imported in accordance with U.S. law, and dispensed by pharmacies and hospitals within Utah, not via personal import or online pharmacies.

Our organization enthusiastically <u>endorses H.B. 163</u> as it will be a big win for Utah and an example for the rest of the country.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may reach me by phone at <u>217-306-5823</u> or by email at <u>jodi@prescriptionjustice.org</u>.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jodi Dart

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Jodi Dart Executive Director Prescription Justice