

February 14, 2021

The Honorable Shannon Lundgren
House Commerce Committee
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Support for HSB 687 – Disclosure of Information by Online Marketplaces

Dear Chairwoman Lundgren:

On behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), the national trade association representing the leading manufacturers of over-the-counter (OTC) medications, dietary supplements, and consumer medical devices, I'd like to express support for HSB 687. This legislation requires online marketplaces to disclose certain information to consumers.

OTC medicines play a critical role in our nation's overall healthcare. Our members' products provide millions of Americans with safe, effective, and affordable therapies to treat and prevent many common ailments and diseases. These medicines are affordable to patients, can be obtained without the intervention of a physician, and help empower families to treat conditions with trusted, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatments. We, therefore, take very seriously any threat to the safety of consumers purchasing OTC products in online marketplaces. The sale of stolen and counterfeit consumer healthcare products represents a serious hazard to the health and welfare of Iowa families. HSB 687 would alleviate many of these concerns and create a much more confident buying experience for consumers.

When licensed pharmacies and verified vendors sell over-the-counter medications and food products, they are complying with federal and state regulations to ensure that the items are effective and safe to consume. They take care to handle and store them under specified conditions and pull items when they're set to expire. Conversely, when OTC products are stolen and resold, or when counterfeit products are being transacted, these standards and safeguards can no longer be guaranteed. Compromised safety standards can lead to careless management of medicine and invite package tampering or other forms of malpractice which could cause harm to Iowa residents.

As record numbers of consumers turn to online shopping and unregulated third-party sellers operating through online marketplaces as their preferred purchase method of choice, the need to ensure product safety and integrity must also expand. HSB 687 establishes baseline requirements for online marketplaces that can better guarantee the safety of consumers using OTC healthcare products.

For these reasons, we strongly support the passage of HSB 687 and respectfully request the support of the full House Commerce Committee as well. We thank you for filing this critical legislation and encourage you to contact me directly with any questions on our position.

Taking healthcare personally.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carlos I. Gutiérrez".

Carlos I. Gutiérrez
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cc: House Commerce Committee