



FEINGOLD SENATE COMMITTEE

RUSS FEINGOLD, U.S. SENATOR - WISCONSIN

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TruthWatch: Prescription Drugs

Russ Feingold vs. Tim Michels on Drug Reimportation

Timeline:

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| 7/19/00 | Senator Feingold cosponsors amendment to the FY01 FDA appropriations bill to allow Canadian reimportation | (S.AMDT.3925 to HR.4461, Vote # 217, Passed 74-21 7/19/00, modified version became public law [PL 6387]) |
| 7/17/02 | Senator Feingold cosponsored amendment to permit Canadian reimportation | (S.AMDT.4299 to S.812, Modified version agreed to by unanimous consent, 7/31/02) |
| 7/18/02 | Senator Feingold cosponsors the Dorgan Bill on reimportation. | (S.2244, Prescription Drug Price Parity for America Act, 7/18/02) |
| 2/27/03 | Senator Feingold introduces legislation to crack down on the efforts of some drug companies who were discriminating against Canadian pharmacies that sold drugs at discounted prices to Americans | (S.477, Preserving Prescription Drug Discounts Act, Introduced 2/27/03) |



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| 6/19/03 | Senator Feingold cosponsors a successful amendment to permit Canadian reimportation | (S.AMDT.946 to S.1, Vote # 232, Modified version passed 6/28 6/20/03) |
| 10/23/03 | Senator Feingold cosponsors the only bipartisan bill that would make drug reimportation legal | (S.1781, Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2003, Introduced 10/23/03) |
| 11/25/03 | Senator Feingold votes against the Medicare bill, citing its prohibition on drug reimportation | (HR.1, Vote # 459, 11/25/03, Feingold voted 'Nay') |
| 11/25/03 | Michels attacks Senator Feingold for voting against the Medicare bill that prohibited reimportation, stating "Feingold is wrong again!" Of the bill Michel stated: "This [Medicare] legislation is long overdue. For far too long Congress has sat on the sidelines and politicized an issue that deals directly with the health and well being of millions of seniors across the country. I am glad to see that this President was able to get it done" | Michels Campaign: Applauds Passage of Medicare Prescription Drug Bill, Says Feingold is "Wrong Again," Michels Campaign Press Release, 11/25/03) |



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| <p>1/23/04</p> | <p>Michels goes on record on the Wisconsin Radio Network saying he favors forcing other countries to increase their prices with the hopes that doing so will convince the drug companies to reduce costs at home. WRN reports: "Michels wants to force Canada to raise its prices because he says that would ultimately lower the cost of drugs for Americans. 'If we increase prices around the world – if we make other countries pay their fair share of the costs – then Americans won't have to take the burden of paying so much of the cost.'"</p> | <p>("Michels wants to raise drug prices in Canada," Wisconsin Radio Network, 1/23/04)</p> |
| <p>4/14/04</p> | <p>The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports: "Michels said he did not believe his [drug reimportation] proposal was at variance with the recent drug benefit included in the Medicare bill signed by President Bush, and which Feingold opposed on the basis that it did not allow the so-called "re-importation" from Canada."</p> | <p>("GOP Senate challenger Michels opens ad battle with call for drug imports," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 4/14/04)</p> |
| <p>4/21/04</p> | <p>Senator Feingold cosponsors another bipartisan bill to permit drug reimportation from Canada</p> | <p>(S.2328, Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act of 2004, 4/21/04)</p> |



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| <p>6/29/04</p> | <p>The media calls Michels on his contradictory positions, writing: "On the same day that the Republican Senate candidate started running ads saying he supported importing drugs from Canada to help state users meet the high cost of prescriptions. However, back in November, he supported the Medicare bill that made such importation illegal, and earlier this year, told the Wisconsin Radio Network that the key to cutting U.S. drug costs was to raise the costs of Canadian and other imported drugs to "even out" how much everybody pays for prescription drugs."</p> | <p>("Champs and Chumps," Green Bay News-Chronicle, 6/29/04)</p> |
| <p>9/10/04</p> | <p>Senator Feingold contacts the FDA after dozens of complaints from Wisconsin residents regarding shipments of prescription drugs from Canada intercepted by the FDA.</p> | <p>("Kohl, Feingold Question FDA About Seizures of Canadian Prescription Drug Shipments to Wisconsin," Feingold Federal Press Release, 9/10/04)</p> |
| <p>9/21/04</p> | <p>A recent press account clearly shows that Michels has tried to adopt Feingold's position on drug reimportation: "But [Michels] does part with the administration — and agrees with Feingold — on allowing Wisconsin residents to purchase less expensive prescription drugs from Canada."</p> | <p>("Michels offers stark contrast to Feingold, Appleton Post-Crescent, 9/21/04)</p> |