



HANNAFORD SUPERMARKETS

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD 449, An Act to Ensure Consumer Choice in the Purchase of Prescription Drugs**

Senator Patrick, Representative Herbig and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development. My name is Mark Polli and I live in Scarborough, Maine. I am the Director for Pharmacy Governmental & Regulatory Affairs.

I am a United States educated pharmacist where I have held a license for the past 39 years. I sat on the Board of Pharmacy for 12 years and served as the Board President for three of those years. When I was a practicing pharmacist there was no responsibility greater than the service I provided to the patients I served. I knew there was a chain of command on the prescriptions I was filling. Personally, I would not choose to ingest drugs from a foreign country because I do not know where they are manufactured and under what guidelines. I do not know the educational requirements of foreign pharmacists nor do I know what they pass for licensure. I do not know whether the medication passed inspection standards or whether there is a chance of it being tampered with while coming into this country. There are too many unanswered questions for me to take imported medication and I would not recommend them to my family.

The Maine Board of Pharmacy has very specific regulations on what has to occur to license a pharmacy in this State and other states have similar provisions. These licensing requirements are in place for the specific purpose of protecting the public health and safety. CanaRx, however, does not seem to be licensed with anyone or anywhere. You might ask yourself why? The answer is that CanaRx is merely a brokerage company that merely contracts with foreign countries to fill prescriptions.

In closing, imported medication from the countries that fill CanaRx prescriptions would not be eligible for reimbursement through Medicare or Medicaid. If reimbursement is not allowed from these federal entities you might ask yourself why this program is good enough for Maine citizens.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional information.