



**National Military and Veterans Alliance**  
5535 Hempstead Way, Springfield, VA 22151  
Phone: (703) 750-1342 ext. 1008  
Fax: (703) 354-4380

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December 3, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

We write to you today to express our concern that the safety of our country's supply of medicines be maintained and secured. Over the last few years, the number of counterfeit and contaminated drugs has risen dramatically. The World Health Organization has said that in some developing countries over 30 percent of medicines are counterfeit. The global marketplace, powered by the Internet, has made what was once a problem limited to specific countries, an international problem affecting potentially any patient, anywhere.

As you know, there are more than 23 million veterans in our country, most of whom receive their medical care not through the VA but through clinicians and pharmacies in their own communities. Similarly, many military retirees, their families and active duty family members use their TRICARE benefits to obtain health care outside of Military Treatment Facilities.

Given the increasing evidence that the importation of pharmaceuticals will threaten the security and safety of our nation's health care system, many of our member organizations have, in the past, written letters and otherwise expressed their concern that efforts to allow the importation of pharmaceuticals would seriously endanger the health of our members, their families, and our nation.

As the Senate debate on healthcare reform advances, we ask you to stand firmly against any diminution of the standards that have to such a large degree protected the American public from the serious threats posed by imported medicines. We ask that you remember that given the nature of the



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international marketplace, such threats cannot be eliminated or mitigated by even a delineation of select countries from which medicines might come. We ask that you rigorously and steadfastly maintain the standards that have been in place.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA) is an umbrella organization of 31 military and veteran associations representing some 2.5 million Americans who serve or have served our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deirdre Parke Holloman".

Deirdre M. Parke-Holloman  
Co-Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Jones".

Richard A. Jones  
Co-Director

cc:  
Senator Max Baucus  
Senator Charles E. Grassley  
Senator Tom Harkin  
Senator Michael B Enzi



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- American Logistics Association
- American Military Retirees Association
- American Military Society
- American Retirees Association
- American WWII Orphans Network
- AMVETS (American Veterans)
- Armed Forces Marketing Council
- Army Navy Union
- Association of the United States Navy
- Catholic War Veterans
- Gold Star Wives of America
- Japanese American Veterans Association
- Korean War Veterans Foundation
- Legion of Valor
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Military Order of Foreign Wars
- Military Order of the World Wars
- National Association for Uniformed Services
- National Gulf War Resource Center
- Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Reserve Enlisted Association
- Reserve Officers Association
- Society of Military Widows
- The Retired Enlisted Association
- TREA Senior Citizen League
- Tragedy Assistant Program for Survivors
- Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- Women in Search of Equity