

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

SCR 11

4
5 By: Senator J. Sturch
6 By: Representative S. Smith

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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE
10 UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER
11 INTO INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS FOR
12 MEDICATIONS.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
17 AND THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG
18 ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO
19 INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS FOR
20 MEDICATIONS.

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23 WHEREAS, the United States accounts for more than one-third (1/3) of
24 the global pharmaceutical market and affects almost every single person in
25 the world; and

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27 WHEREAS, in a nation with rising healthcare costs, ensuring that
28 American citizens benefit from pharmacology is essential to improving the
29 nation's healthcare system; and

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31 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration is responsible
32 for protecting the public's health by assuring consumers that the
33 pharmaceutical drugs approved in the United States are both safe and
34 effective; and

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36 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has a highly



1 stringent, costly, and lengthy approval process for pharmaceutical drugs; and

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3 WHEREAS, the approval process through the United States Food and Drug
4 Administration does not allow American citizens access to potentially life-
5 saving medications that have already been approved in other countries, such
6 as the United Kingdom, whose pharmaceutical regulatory system is similar to
7 that of the United States; and

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9 WHEREAS, by enacting an international reciprocity agreement for
10 medications, the United States could automatically approve drugs that have
11 been approved in other countries and potentially save millions of lives; and

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13 WHEREAS, international reciprocity agreements would make available
14 numerous needed alternative drugs for drugs that are in shortage in this
15 nation; and

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17 WHEREAS, enacting international reciprocity agreements for medication
18 would coincide with the spirit of the Right to Try Act, § 20-15-2101 et seq.,
19 which allows the use of investigation drugs, biological products, and devices
20 for Arkansas citizens who have terminal illnesses; and

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22 WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the United States Food and Drug
23 Administration should take action to preserve the health of all citizens of
24 this nation by allowing access to all medications approved by countries with
25 similar pharmaceutical regulatory systems,

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27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
29 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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31 THAT the Senate of the Ninety-Third General Assembly of the State of
32 Arkansas, the House of Representatives concurring, encourages the United
33 States Congress and the United States Food and Drug Administration to enter
34 into international reciprocity agreements to make more medications approved
35 by countries with similar pharmaceutical regulatory systems available to save
36 the lives of the citizens of this nation.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided by the Secretary of the Senate to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the majority leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.