

Outrageously High Drug Prices

For a 30-day supply:

DRUG	U.S. PRICE	EURO. PRICE
Allegra 120	\$69.99	\$20.88
Atarax	\$28.62	\$4.20
Biaxin 250	\$113.25	\$61.74
Claritin	\$63.06	\$16.05
Coumadin	\$37.74	\$8.22
Glucophage	\$30.12	\$4.11
Lipitor	\$52.86	\$41.25
Premarin	\$17.10	\$9.90
Prozac	\$71.94	\$44.10
Zestril 5	\$25.92	\$5.52
Zithromax 500	\$486.00	\$176.19
Zyrtec	\$50.10	\$17.73

Source: Life Extension Network, 2001

Some say importation jeopardizes consumer safety.

The TRUTH is...

No known scientific study demonstrates a threat of injury to patients importing medications with a prescription from industrialized countries.

What's more, millions of Americans have NO prescription drug coverage. Stopping importation of FDA-approved drugs threatens *their* safety.

A drug you can't afford is neither safe nor effective.



Some say the FDA lacks the resources to inspect mail orders.

The TRUTH is...

The FDA is focusing its inspection resources in the **WRONG** places.

Instead of stopping **ILLEGAL** drugs imported by illicit traffickers, the FDA concentrates on **APPROVED** drugs imported by **LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS**.

So far this year, the FDA detained **18 TIMES** more packages coming from Canada than from Mexico. Last year, the FDA detained **90 TIMES** more packages from Canada than Mexico.*

Worse, last year Congress appropriated \$23 million for border enforcement, but the Secretary of Health and Human Services refused to use the funds.

**Source: FDA website.*

Some say importation is merely an indirect way of enacting price controls.

The TRUTH is...

“Importing prescription drugs to the United States will lower prices here and, in the long run, force Europe to pay more drug research and development costs. The best way to break down price controls is to open up markets.”

Source:

*Stephen W. Schondelmeyer,
Pharm.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Director, PRIME Institute
Head, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Care &
Health Systems
College of Pharmacy
University of Minnesota*

Some say a Medicare drug benefit will eliminate the need for importation.

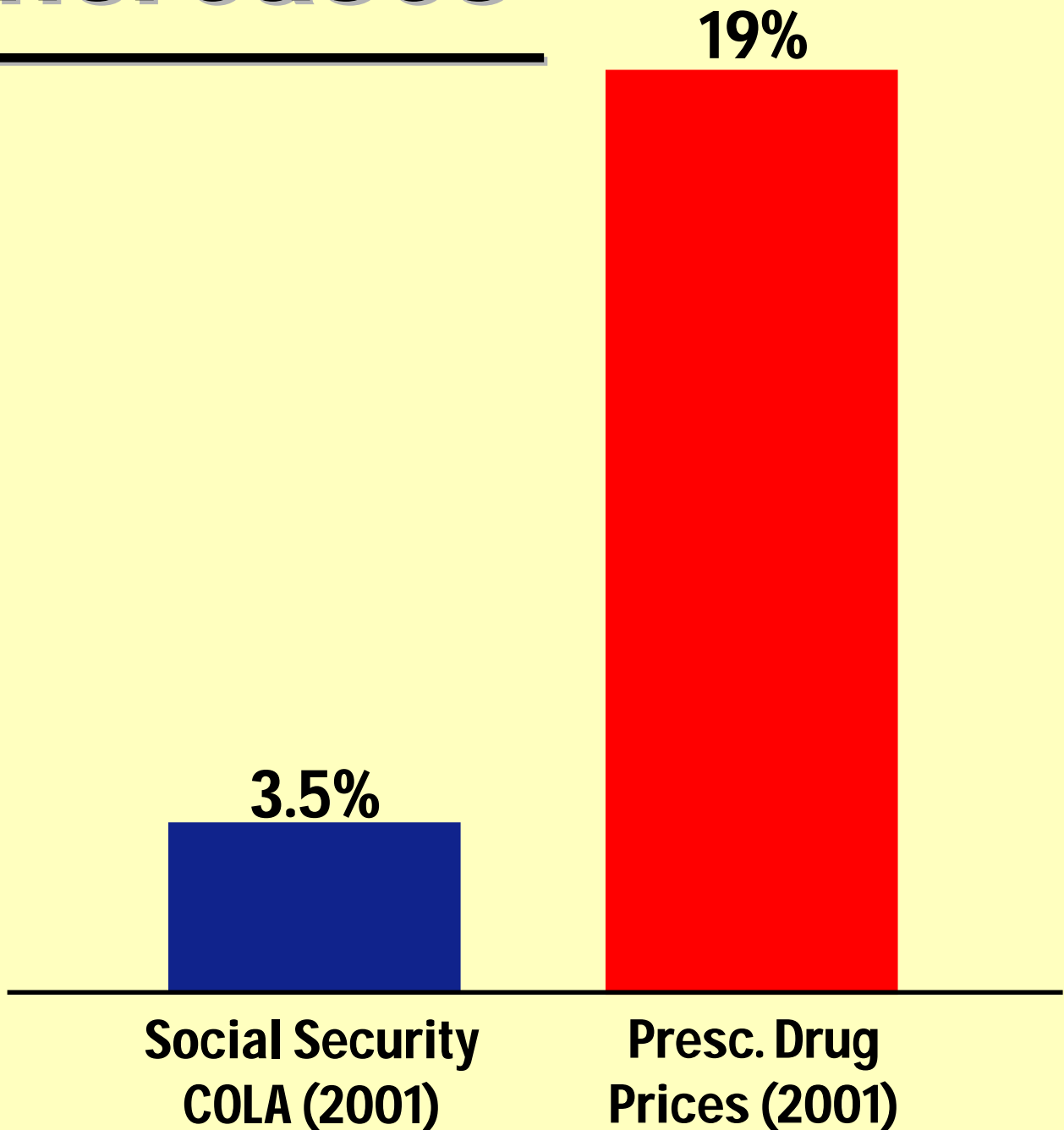
The TRUTH is...

Simply shifting high drug prices to the government only *transfers the burden* to American taxpayers.

Moreover, Medicare coverage won't help the millions of Americans without health insurance.



Unsustainable Price Increases



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Institute of Health Care Management