

RetireSafe

May 1, 2025

Eric Longnecker
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Technology Security
Bureau of Industry and Security
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Stephen Astle
Director, Defense Industrial Base Division
Bureau of Industry Security
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Longnecker and Director Astle:

On behalf of my advocacy organization, RetireSafe, which promotes public policies that protect America's seniors, I am writing today to urge you to exclude pharmaceutical products from tariffs. Without an exemption from tariffs, seniors will see an immediate cost increase and a corresponding decrease in access to their medications.

America's aging population relies on access to treatments to extend and maintain their quality of life. Many seniors take [multiple](#) prescription medications to treat a variety of conditions like high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and heart disease. Tariffs would threaten patient access to these medications and others, as they would not only impact access to medications developed abroad but also medicines made in America that rely on ingredients sourced in the EU and other friendly countries. America's seniors should be able to access the best pharmaceuticals, whether they are made in the United States, Europe, or elsewhere. The U.S. government should not make it harder to access these medicines by imposing tariffs.

Likewise, seniors cannot afford to pay the highest imaginable price, even if it could guarantee access to their much-needed medication. As of 2022, around [8 million](#) older Americans lived in low-income homes. Many of them are either retired or able to work only one job, so they live paycheck to paycheck and cannot afford increased costs on any goods, much less the medications they rely upon.

While the Administration is noble in wanting to increase manufacturing in America and make other countries pay their share, these goals should not be achieved by making medicines more expensive through tariffs. They would increase costs for patients, companies, and, importantly, taxpayers. Medications should be in a different category from other goods because they *are* different. Seniors can go without European textiles, wines, and cheese, but they cannot go without their medications. I urge

you to keep seniors—and all patients—top of mind and exclude lifesaving drugs from tariffs to protect their access to treatments.

Sincerely,

Mark Gibbons
President
RetireSafe