

## 2005 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 718

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 12, 2005

*Memorializing the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve the purchasing of prescription drugs from other countries.*

Patrons—Hall, Miller and Shuler

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, payment for prescription drugs is the fastest growing segment of health care expenditures both at the national level and in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, effective pharmaceuticals improve the quality of life for the Commonwealth's citizens, especially the elderly, and help contain the health care costs associated with aging; and

WHEREAS, an estimated one million to two million Americans buy prescription drugs from Canadian businesses, where they are up to 50 percent less expensive; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in 2003, passed a law instructing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a waiver program allowing individuals to safely purchase prescription drugs for their personal use from outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary has not taken the necessary steps to allow the safe, cost-efficient importation of prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, in the face of federal inaction, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Kansas have created programs to help their states' residents purchase safe prescription drugs from Canada, the United Kingdom, and Ireland; and

WHEREAS, a national solution to this nationwide problem, is preferable to forcing individual states to defy the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services be urged to approve the purchasing of prescription drugs from other countries; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services also be urged to implement the will of the United States Congress and approve individuals' purchase of safe prescription drugs from other countries; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services so that he may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

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