

May 25, 2021

Chairman Henry C. “Hank” Johnson  
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual  
Property, and the Internet  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

Ranking Member Darrell Issa  
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual  
Property, and the Internet  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Issa,

On behalf of the [Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies’ \(ASOP Global\)](#), thank you for holding a hearing on “SHOP SAFE Act: Stemming the Rising Tide of Unsafe Counterfeit Products Online” on Thursday, May 27, 2021. ASOP Global supports the SHOP SAFE Act's passage as it helps to ensure transparency, accountability and consumer safety online.

ASOP Global, a decade-old nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. with activities in U.S., Canada, Europe, Latin America and Asia, is dedicated to protecting consumers, ensuring safe online access to medications, and combating illegal online drug sellers. With more than 75 participating organizations around the world, ASOP Global prioritizes efforts to better promote a safe and legitimate online environment for patients, caregivers and healthcare providers.

To date, U.S. policy has failed to protect Americans from the widespread internet drug sellers who profit at the expense of patients' safety. Roughly [95 percent](#) of the over [35,000 online pharmacies worldwide](#) operate illegally, selling medicines without a prescription and peddling fake and dangerous medicinal alternatives in violation of state and federal law as well as pharmacy practice standards. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this crisis, with online criminals preying on consumers by peddling illicit drugs as products to treat or prevent the disease. By establishing trademark liability for online marketplace platforms when a third-party sells a counterfeit product that poses a risk to consumer health and safety, the SHOP SAFE Act is an important step toward ensuring the internet is a safe place for consumers to shop for products. If enacted, it will incentivize platforms to adequately vet sellers and products, shutdown repeat offenders, and provide consumers with vital information so they can make informed purchases.

ASOP Global has advocated for policies that put online patient safety first, including [increasing internet accountability](#) through targeted reforms to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, safeguarding online transparency by restoring access to accurate WHOIS data, and stopping domain name registries and registrars from facilitating online crime by requiring them to [lock and suspend suspicious sites](#).

While more must be done at the federal level to protect Americans from criminals peddling dangerous drugs online through marketplaces, social media, and websites, ASOP Global is proud to support the bipartisan SHOP SAFE Act’s policy goals. We believe it is time to take a comprehensive approach to

ensure consumers' safety and well-being in this online ecosystem and the SHOP SAFE Act is a substantial leap in the right direction.

Thank you for your continued leadership in Congress and for introducing the SHOP SAFE Act. ASOP Global looks forward to continuing to work with Committee to see the SHOP SAFE Act advance and ultimately enacted this Congress. Please know that we stand ready to work with you to ensure that federal policies that safeguard public health, like the SHOP SAFE Act, become law along with any internet policies that are aimed at curbing the ongoing opioid epidemic.

Respectfully,



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cc: Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler  
Representative Ben Cline