

Sent: Monday, June 25, 2007 5:15 PM

To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV

Subject: Legislative Email Update - Fighting Against Counterfeit Rx Drugs

I write today to update you on recent legislative activities in the United States Congress. I appreciate the opportunity to contact you.

Fighting Against Counterfeit Rx Drugs

I believe counterfeit drugs - fake medications sold to unknowing customers - put lives at great risk, and have become a growing problem in this country. The criminals who commit this dangerous crime are targeting innocent Americans, and they must be stopped. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that counterfeit drug sales hit \$32 billion in 2003, amounting to 10 percent of all medicines sold worldwide that year, including \$200 million seized in the United States, a sevenfold increase from the previous year. The WHO estimates that medicines purchased over the Internet from sites concealing their address are counterfeit in more than 50 percent of cases. Many of these drugs have harmful and dangerous substances in them, making this a life or death situation for many Americans. Despite these dangers, penalties for counterfeiting prescription drugs in the United States are much less than for counterfeiting money. The penalties ought to match the crime, not just to punish these criminals, but to make it less attractive to engage in practices that put millions of American patients at risk. That is why I have proposed to strengthen the punishment for production, distribution and sale of these fake drugs.

I am pleased to report that last week, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, of which I am a member, passed legislation that included my proposal to crack down on counterfeit drugs. The bill would increase prison terms from three years to 20 years, and life sentences when counterfeiting results in death of a patient. Now referred to the full House for consideration, I believe Congress will soon have an opportunity to pass this important proposal into law. For more information on this issue, please [click here](#).

Protecting Children's Health

Last week the House Committee on Energy and Commerce passed important legislation which I co-authored, aimed at assisting and protecting children with special medical needs. This bill would give children the same access as adults to medical devices that can meet special needs and even save lives.

Small babies or young children can rarely use medical devices designed for adults. In many instances, pediatric medical devices can make the difference between life and death, yet pediatricians have indicated that children's medical devices can be a decade behind those for adults.

It is time for us to conquer this challenge. My bill, the Pediatric Medical Device Safety and Improvement Act, offers incentives to device manufacturers to create needed medical devices specifically designed

to meet the needs of pediatric patients. It also gives the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to review these devices and requires post-market studies to ensure the continued safety and effectiveness of the devices.

I am pleased that this legislation has been sent to the full House for consideration. Children facing medical hurdles should not be shut out of advances in medical technology. Soon, we can make it possible for our most vulnerable children to experience improvements in the quality of their daily lives.

For more information on this issue, please [click here](#).

[Honoring the Detroit Tigers' American League Pennant](#)

Tigers fans across the state and country joined together in 2006 and watched as their team won the American League Pennant and played in the their first World Series since 1984. I know how special last fall's baseball playoffs were - not only to fans of the game, but to all of Michigan. An exciting post-season run revitalized baseball excitement in Detroit and across the state.

Last week, I was honored to host a congressional reception honoring the American League champions for their outstanding accomplishments during the 2006 baseball season. I presented team members with a copy of a congressional resolution I introduced highlighting the whole team's numerous accomplishments.

The resolution, H.Res. 488, acknowledges the Detroit Tigers' successes in 2006 and celebrates their first trip to the World Series in 22 years. To read the resolution, [click here](#).

On behalf of all fans I want to commend the players, coaches, management, and all the other personnel of the Tigers, as well as their loyal fans, on this great victory. I wish them well in their 2007 campaign for another pennant and pursuit of a World Series title. Go Tigers!

To read a Detroit Free Press article on the Tigers' congressional reception, [click here](#).

I appreciate your continued interest in the legislative activities of your U.S. Congress. As always, should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers

Member of Congress

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