

As a practicing veterinarian, I am very concerned about the negative effects this bill would have on my patients' health. I have summarized some of my largest concerns about this bill below.

- 1) Administering medications to an animal can be difficult and is not as simple as "swallow with a glass of water." There are pills, liquids, oral gels, ointments, topicals, rectal medications, and many others administered to a wide variety of species, all very differently. Without the veterinarian and/or their staff demonstrating to the owner how to properly handle & administer that specific medication to that specific patient, this could be dangerous to the animal or the owner.
- 2) Veterinary pharmacology is not the same as human. We treat many species and every species has different biological and metabolic needs. For example, a FDA medication approved safe for humans does not mean it would be safe for animals. The human or internet pharmacies filling these prescriptions rarely have pharmacists trained in veterinary pharmacology and never have staff educated in veterinary medicine. Removing the educated veterinarian from the filling of the prescription could prove very dangerous to our pets.
- 3) More illegal drugs will enter the market. Fraudulent, pirated, ineffective, "generic," and unapproved FDA drugs will flood the market when an increasing number of pharmacies that are looking to make a quick buck enter the veterinary arena. On top of that, with limited or no government regulation, there will be no stopping this hazardous activity. Who suffers with these ineffective or even dangerous medications? Our pets.
- 4) There are many times in practice where we determine that a certain medication just can't be given to a certain patient. Perhaps, a cat won't take the pill and needs a liquid. Perhaps, a dog will try to bite its owner and needs an injection instead. We determine this while the patient is in our hospital so we can make immediate steps in order to safely & effectively treat our pets.
- 5) Who becomes liable when something goes wrong with a veterinary prescription? Veterinarians normally hold this liability and we are very careful to protect our patients. However, when the prescription is filled elsewhere, we have no control over that product and therefore should not be held liable. Yet, this bill prohibits us from allowing pet owners to sign liability waivers and so we would be unprotected against fraudulent or misdirected law suits. This is not only hazardous for the pets we try to serve but unjust for us.
- 6) When animal health products are not purchased through proper channels, this makes it impossible for a veterinarian to maintain proper records and monitor the patient's well-being. Our computer software and tracking systems don't work and therefore the veterinarian loses their ability to help protect their animal patients.
- 7) Many of my patients suffer from the "Oops, I forgot to get to the pharmacy" disease – that is their disease goes untreated. Compliance can be very poor in our field already. When an animal owner doesn't get to the pharmacy in a timely fashion (or perhaps not at all) or is waiting for a mail order, the animal suffers.
- 8) Sometimes, compounded drugs specific for a patient are needed. It requires specialized training, materials, and methods to do this properly and assure patient safety. Many pharmacies will offer this service although they do not ensure proper quality standards. If the

pet owner takes the prescription to one of these such pharmacies, they could inadvertently put their pets at serious risk.

In summary, this bill, HR 1406, is treacherous to the very patients and their owners that it is claiming to try to protect. We can't allow this to happen. Our patients and our pets can't be allowed to suffer for the corporate greed that I suspect is driving this bill.