



UNITED STATES SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON

AGING

RANKING MEMBER KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

January 29th, 2026

Ranking Member Kirsten Gillibrand's Opening Statement “*Truth in Labeling: Americans Deserve to Know Where Their Drugs Come From*”

Chairman Scott, thank you for calling today's hearing and thank you to our witnesses for being here.

I'm looking forward to continuing our conversation on how we can improve the quality and reliability of our generic drug supply chain, particularly the role of increased transparency.

As we have heard in our previous hearings, these supply chains are vulnerable to disruption, and with decreased domestic manufacturing, we are putting ourselves in an increasingly perilous position.

Given recent instability in geopolitics and international trade policy, this reliance on foreign drugs increases the risk that Americans may not have access to life-saving drugs in times of crisis, threatening our national security.

However, we must approach strengthening and reforming this extremely complex supply chain thoughtfully and thoroughly.

One piece of this puzzle is increasing supply chain transparency through country-of-origin labeling.

Country-of-origin labeling is a common tool that is used on thousands of products, most prominently in textiles and food.

It gives consumers clear information on the origins of their products, providing them with additional information that may influence whether they purchase an item.

Pharmaceuticals are also required to disclose this information; however, it may be difficult for patients to track it down.

As we will hear from our witnesses today, providing transparency to consumers is extremely important, but it is not the only solution to improve the reliability and quality of the drug supply chain.

Country-of-origin labeling does not necessarily equate to higher or lower quality drugs, and there are additional steps that Congress can take to ensure that all drugs in our supply chain, both domestic and foreign, are of the highest quality.

We must examine the underlying economic dynamics in the current marketplace and adjust incentives to fix the “race to the bottom” in generic drug pricing, which can create drug quality issues, drive manufacturing outside of the United States, or cause companies to stop production of certain drugs or chemicals altogether.

Transparency must also be coupled with expanded supply chain mapping as well as quality benchmarking.

Coupled together, these proposals will create a more resilient drug supply chain that can lead to improved stability for manufacturers and purchasers, increased consumer confidence in the quality of their medications, and a potential resurgence of domestic production.

While the vast majority of the medications that patients use are both safe and effective, increased transparency and supply chain mapping will improve long-term decision making for manufacturers to invest in quality and reliability.

I am excited to hear from our witnesses today as they are discussing policy proposals that can be undertaken by Congress.

I look forward to working with Chairman Scott and other committees of jurisdiction as we work to increase the transparency and reliability of our drug supply chain.