UNITED STATES SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON

AGING

RANKING MEMBER KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

June 3rd, 2026

Ranking Member Kirsten Gillibrand's Opening Statement *"Poisoned Pills: The Human Cost of Dangerous Foreign Drugs"*

Thank you, Chairman Scott for calling today's hearing. Welcome to all our witnesses. I am very grateful to meet you and excited to hear your testimony. I am looking forward to continuing this conversation on how we can improve the quality and reliability of our generic drug supply chain. As we have heard from our previous hearings, these supply chains are vulnerable to disruption.

With decreased domestic manufacturing, we are putting ourselves in an increasingly perilous position. Underlying market factors in the United States have led to a race to the bottom where incentives for manufacturers are solely based on cost, not quality.

While almost all generic drugs that Americans take are safe, Congress must empower the FDA to conduct rigorous oversight to make sure foreign manufacturers comply with our safety standards.

Congress must also work with industry to move away from costs being the only factors in purchasing. We must incentivize manufacturers and purchasers to consider quality when they are sourcing active pharmaceutical ingredients and final dose foreign medicines. And we must expand testing of these drugs and ingredients too.

There have been many recommendations made before this committee on how to ensure the drugs that enter the U.S. market are high quality. This includes legislation, like our bipartisan CLEAR LABELS Act, or proposals to expand supply chain mapping.

I am thrilled that there is so much bipartisan excitement around strengthening our generic pharmaceutical supply, and I look forward to working with Chairman Scott and other members of this Committee to solve these evergreen problems. Thank you.