



September 17th, 2025

Ranking Member Kirsten Gillibrand's Opening Statement “Prescription for Trouble: Drug Safety, Supply Chains, and the Risk to Aging Americans”

*Thank you, Chairman Scott, for calling today's hearing. I really appreciate it.
Thank you to our witnesses for being here today.*

*Combating drug shortages and supporting high quality generic drug
production is one of the most important issues facing Congress today.*

*In 2023, I heard from countless New York constituents who struggled with
access to chemotherapy treatment due to shortages of essential generic
cancer drugs, including Cisplatin and Carboplatin. When you are fighting a
disease as devastating as cancer, the last thing you want to worry about is
whether the life-saving drug you need is available.*

*Another issue that is extremely concerning is the quality of generic drugs,
especially those we import from overseas. I have heard time and time again
about the difficulties that FDA inspectors face when inspecting these*

foreign facilities. This can include basic logistical support, or a third-party translator.

When an inspector is abroad for months in a place where they may not speak the language, it can be very disheartening. Inspectors can also be put in a position where they must recommend the closure of a facility, but this can have a cascading effect of domestic generic shortages.

The FDA needs adequate funding and support from Congress to ensure that they can not only conduct these inspections, but also enforce violations to protect the health and safety of the American public. We also need to work on solutions that promote transparency and quality benchmarks in the generic drug supply chain. The pharmaceutical supply chain can be very long and opaque, where several countries and companies are manufacturing various ingredients at various levels of quality.

Purchasers need to be incentivized to purchase high-quality drugs that have proven reliability and a proven reliable supply chain. Hospitals and practitioners are spending millions of dollars per year due to drug shortages.

Ultimately, it is the health and safety of our patients and constituents that are being put at risk. I am looking forward to working on bipartisan solutions that promote safe and reliable supply chains for generic drugs.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

