Fifth Annual Pharmaceutical Regulation & Compliance Congress

Alan F. Holmer

November 15, 2004

 We need to work on real solutions to real health care problems.

We need to eat better and exercise better.

 We need to ensure that medicines are used appropriately.

 Americans should want to stretch their dollars as far as possible and to spend as little as possible for their medicines.

 For public policies that improve access to affordable medicines, the best place to start is with those who have the greatest need for medicines and often have the greatest need for help: seniors, disabled Americans, and the poor.

 The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 is the law of the land and will continue to be the law of the land.

 The Medicare program should be able to save money for taxpayers through group buying power.

 America's pharmaceutical companies should do more to make Americans aware of individual company patient assistance programs.

 We should promote greater awareness among consumers about the benefits that can be gained by doing a little comparison shopping.

• If an older medicine works just as well for you, use it. If your doctor prescribes a generic, that may allow you to stretch your dollars further.

 We need to address the problem of the uninsured, not just for medicines but for all of health care.

 We should promise reasonable tiering in insurance co-payments to promote costconsciousness by patients, without deterring their access to good health care.

Importation is not a real solution.

 When it comes to health care, disease is our common enemy.

 We need to keep incentives strong for innovation and the search for cures, new treatments and better technology.