

The Truth  *About Health*

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES ARE 'FLEEING AMERICA' WITH HIGH COSTS

Vol. 4 Issue 97

Pharmaceutical companies spend millions of dollars each year lobbying against legislation that would lower the cost of prescription drugs, claiming their business would be threatened if they lowered the cost of drugs to consumers.

Congressman Bernard Sanders, who recently exposed the “massive” profits of pharmaceutical companies, disagreed. He said Americans pay the highest prices for prescription drugs in the world — while drug company profits exceed every other industry in the nation.

A large portion of this profit — millions each year— is spent using scare tactics to stop prescription drug legislation from passing in Congress — presenting their case so it appears reform will stifle research and make their businesses unprofitable.

“Congress needs to stop working to protect the billions in drug company profits and start working to protect Americans from being ripped off on the price of their medications,” Sanders said.

“For every dollar these drug companies take in, they pocket 18 cents in pure profit,” said Sanders. “They are pocketing the largest profit-margin of any industry in the nation — more than what is spent on research and development.”

Sanders believes it is “outrageous that the industry with the highest profit margins can claim that legislation that would make drugs more affordable, would threaten their business.”

The latest “Fortune 500” numbers show the top 7 pharmaceutical companies profited more than the top seven auto, oil, airline and media companies — And, their 18.9% profit-to-revenue ratio was, by far, the highest margin of any industry in the nation.

SOURCE: “New Figures Prove Pharmaceutical Industry Continues to Fleece Americans,” press release, Rep. Bernard Sanders, May 3, 2000; www.wcanews.com.