The National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) today issued the following statement in response to S.469, legislation that would allow for the importation of prescription medicine.

“At NANASP, we strive to improve the health and safety of seniors across the country,” said Paul Downey, member of the board. “Unfortunately, this legislation threatens our country with potentially harmful medications and places the seniors we work to protect at risk.”

“In the U.S., our current drug approval process ensures new medications undergo rigorous testing and are safe for everyone,” Downey said. “In Canada, the government is not responsible for ensuring drugs intended for the U.S. are safe and reliable, which is a major concern given a significant share of medicines purchased from Canada may have originated from countries such as Pakistan or China and are not subjected to that same rigorous testing. This lack of oversight will increase uncertainty in our health care system and make seniors question the efficacy of their medications.”

“Allowing drug imports from Canada would only create another unnecessary threat to the health of this already vulnerable population and we urge Congress to oppose this legislation,” Downey said.