

12 December 2013

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, PC, MP  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) would like to commend you for introducing Bill C-17, *Protecting Canadians from Unsafe Drugs Act* (Vanessa's Law).

The CFPC welcomes the power given to the federal government to recall unsafe products as well as requiring adverse drug reaction reporting by health care institutions. Further, we support the proposed penalties for unsafe products, including jail time and new fines up to \$5 million a day, as these measures unequivocally declare that the continued release of unsafe drugs is unacceptable.

Should Bill C-17 be passed, we understand that patient safety will be improved.

While we applaud these patient safety measures, the CFPC would like to see a requirement that any documentation that aided the Minister's decision to recall or withdraw a product be made available to the public. This level of transparency will fortify accountability and further augment your efforts toward patient safety.

The CFPC welcomes any proposal that seeks to improve the health of Canadians and would be of interest to our family physician members and we thank you for your leadership on Bill C-17.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 905-629-0900 ext.325 or e-mail: [ejm@cfpc.ca](mailto:ejm@cfpc.ca).

Sincerely,



Kathy Lawrence, MD, CCFP, FCFP  
President

c.c.: Dr. Francine Lemire, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, CFPC  
Dr. Jamie Meuser, Associate Executive Director & Director, Continuing Professional Development, CFPC  
Mr. Eric Mang, Director, Health Policy and Government Relations, CFPC  
Mr. Terence Young, MP