

**Pfizer Statement Regarding  
"The Counterfeit Drug Penalty Enhancement Act of 2011"**

"Pfizer applauds U.S. Sens. Pat Leahy (VT) and Charles Grassley (IA) and U.S. Reps. Patrick Meehan (PA) and Linda Sanchez (CA) for introducing the "Counterfeit Drug Penalty Enhancement Act of 2011." This legislation's tough sanctions and sentencing guidelines would provide powerful deterrents to pharmaceutical counterfeiting, affording patients stronger protection from the grave threat that counterfeit medicines pose to their health and safety.

Pharmaceutical counterfeiting can result in treatment failure, serious illness and death. The Act demonstrates the U.S.'s commitment to addressing the toll that counterfeit drugs crimes exact on public health and on the public's confidence in the medicines supplied to them and their families.

Finally, this legislation demonstrates that the U.S. is prepared to lead in ensuring safety of the global drugs supply - both by putting a very tough anti-counterfeiting law into effect in the world's largest drugs market, and by encouraging partner nations to put similar laws into effect."

Facts on illegal drug counterfeiting:

- Worldwide counterfeit medicines have been estimated to be a \$75 billion industry.<sup>1</sup> Counterfeit sales have been estimated to be increasing at 13% annually - nearly twice the pace of legitimate pharmaceutical sales <sup>2</sup>
- Pfizer alone has confirmed counterfeit versions of more than 50 of its medicines in at least 101 countries
- The World Health Organization estimates that medicines purchased over the Internet from outlets that conceal their actual physical address are counterfeit in over 50% of cases.<sup>3</sup> Of the 8,000 web sites reviewed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, 96% were found to be out of compliance <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Medicines in the Public Interest. "21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Care Terrorism: The Perils of International Drug Counterfeiting;" September 2005

<sup>2</sup> ibid

<sup>3</sup> WHO Fact sheet # 275; January 2010

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nabp.net/programs/consumer-protection/buying-medicine-online/not-recommended-sites/>