

# Sanders plans trip to show drug costs lower in Canada

**By Ross Sneyd**

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**MONTPELIER** — Rep. Bernie Sanders is taking five senior citizens on a drive to Montreal next week to publicize how much prescription drugs cost in the United States.

Sanders' staff has set up appointments for the seniors with a Montreal doctor, who can write their normal prescriptions for them. They then will go down the street and have them filled. Sanders, I-Vt., wants to demonstrate how much cheaper it is to buy the same prescriptions an hour north of the border than it is in the United States.

"The purpose of the trip is to demonstrate the absurd situation that exists when prescription drugs manufactured by American companies are sold in Canada and, in fact, throughout the entire world, at far lower prices than in the United States," Sanders said.

The escalating cost of pharmaceuticals is becoming a national issue and Sanders has proposed a bill that would allow U.S. pharmaceutical distributors to pur-

chase drugs in Canada or another foreign country and resell them in the United States.

A congressional study conducted at Sanders' request found that pharmaceuticals are significantly more expensive in the United States than in Canada or Mexico.

"The study looked at 10 of the most widely used drugs by seniors and showed that we pay 81 percent more than the Canadians," Sanders said. "This is not generic or anything else. These are the same exact drugs, manufactured in the same exact factories, sold in the same exact bottles and containers."

The drug manufacturers argue that they sell their products for higher prices in the United States, in part, to support the expensive research and development costs they incur in developing new drugs.

They say they worry that if Congress were to drop the prohibition against the re-importation of pharmaceuticals, consumer protections could be threatened.