



#### Overview:

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** has been identified as a national observance day to bring awareness to Americans of the need for reliable access to critical essential medicines. No American should ever be without the critical essential medicines necessary to sustain life and conquer disease. The goal of this observance day is to raise awareness of this national health crisis, and importantly encourage collaboration and innovation among healthcare professionals, patient advocates, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and lawmakers to create a more secure and sustainable essential medicine supply chain for all Americans.

**“No American should ever be without the critical essential medicines necessary to sustain life and conquer disease.”**

#### Problem:

In 2018, the American Medical Association announced that medicine shortages now pose an urgent public health crisis in the United States. The supply chains are vulnerable to trade wars, natural disasters, military conflicts, and quality issues leading to choke points which could and have crippled U.S. supply in times of pandemic, and other global events. The limited number of medicine manufacturers operating within a global supply chain makes the system susceptible to economic, political, and public health crises, limiting its capacity to deliver essential medicines to the people who need them. As the U.S. confronts the COVID-19 pandemic and future health threats, the availability of an uninterrupted supply of fully domestic-made, life-saving medicines is essential for ensuring the nation’s health security.

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#### Solution:

Revamping the supply chain and stockpiling essential medicines and their key ingredients could have substantial economic and health benefits that go beyond rare crises like the pandemic. It is important that public-private partnerships be established to accelerate efforts to domestically manufacture essential medicines. Given the fragility of the global supply chain, America must reimagine a domestic, end-to-end solution for both active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and vital finished essential medicine products.

**“...America must reimagine a domestic, end-to-end solution...”**

**Please join in observing National Essential Medicine Shortage Awareness Day by helping to spark the conversation about the urgent health crisis of essential medicine shortages.**

Use **#Stoptheshortage** on social media platforms to spread the word.