



May 7, 2025

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security

RE: Request for Public Comments on Section 232 National Security Investigation of Imports of Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Ingredients

Patients with Dravet syndrome rely on just three FDA-approved medications, which are either manufactured or rely on components that are sourced outside the United States. As a result, any policy changes that restrict or delay the importation of pharmaceutical products or ingredients could have immediate, life-threatening consequences for this vulnerable population.

Dravet syndrome is a severe, treatment-resistant epilepsy that begins in infancy and is associated with frequent, prolonged seizures, developmental delays, and an increased risk of sudden death. Interruptions in access to these critical medications would not only compromise seizure control but also endanger lives and impose profound emotional and financial burdens on affected families. For this community, a stable global pharmaceutical supply chain is not just a matter of convenience—it is a matter of survival.

As a rare disease with limited treatment options, the therapeutic pipeline is also of critical importance. Several drugs are currently in development, being testing in human clinical trials for Dravet syndrome and related epilepsies, which could also be impacted by changes to trade measures, disrupting a future where patients with Dravet syndrome can lead healthier lives.

The Dravet Syndrome Foundation is deeply concerned that broad trade measures may unintentionally harm the very patients who depend most on the global pharmaceutical supply chain. We ask that the Department approach this investigation with an awareness of the unique vulnerabilities of rare disease populations.

We welcome the opportunity to engage further on this issue and thank you for considering the perspective of the Dravet syndrome community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Hood". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Veronica Hood, PhD
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Scientific Director