**Low Quality Medicines**

By Mohammad Zahir Aksbair

The availability of quality pharmaceutical products is critical to public health in a country such as Afghanistan. However, the pharmaceutical market in Afghanistan is rife with low quality and counterfeited products, particularly in rural areas, where people have limited access to healthcare. This poses a significant threat to public health, as patients rely on these products for their treatment. In many cases, the low quality of these products results in ineffective treatment or worse, severe side effects. The government and regulatory bodies must take stringent measures to ensure that the pharmaceutical market in Afghanistan is free from low quality and counterfeit products. Only then can we ensure that our people receive the treatment they need and deserve.

**Troubles must Change a Nation**

By Elizabeth Drew

It is widely agreed that the top of a ballot influences races further down. Though the extent to which this happens isn’t clear, when it occurs, it can be devastating for candidates that lose. In 2016, for example, Senator Rob Portman (along with nine other senators) rescinded his support for then-candidate Donald Trump. When the tape came out, Ohio went for Hillary Clinton. Overall, it is estimated that the combined value of both illegal and legal pharmaceutical products exported to Afghanistan was around $1 billion in 2018. This highlights the need for measures to combat the importation of low-quality pharmaceuticals into Afghanistan. The government must take a lead role in ensuring that the pharmaceutical market in Afghanistan is free from low quality and counterfeit products. Only then can we ensure that our people receive the treatment they need and deserve.