



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

Statement of FTC Chairman Joe Simons Regarding Federal Court Ruling in FTC v. AbbVie

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June 29, 2018

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Federal Trade Commission Chairman Joe Simons issued the following statement regarding the decision by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in the case FTC v. AbbVie. The court ruled that AbbVie used sham litigation to illegally maintain its monopoly over the testosterone replacement drug Androgel, and ordered \$448 million in monetary relief to consumers who were overcharged for Androgel as a result of AbbVie's conduct. This court order represents the largest monetary award ever in a litigated FTC antitrust case.

"This decision is a double victory, both for patients who rely on Androgel and for competition more broadly. It sends a clear signal that pharmaceutical companies can't use baseless litigation to forestall competition from low-cost generics."

The FTC filed a [complaint in federal district court in 2014](#) charging that AbbVie Inc. and its partner Besins Healthcare Inc. illegally blocking American consumers' access to lower-cost alternatives to Androgel by filing baseless patent infringement lawsuits against potential generic competitors.

The Federal Trade Commission works to promote competition, and [protect and educate consumers](#). You can [learn more about consumer topics](#) and file a [consumer complaint online](#) or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357). Like the FTC on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), read our [blogs](#) and [subscribe to press releases](#) for the latest FTC news and resources.

PRESS RELEASE REFERENCE:

[FTC Sues Pharmaceutical Companies for Illegally Blocking Consumer Access to Lower-Cost Versions of the Blockbuster Drug AndroGel](#)

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