



FIGURE 9.2
Political balancing act.

be wishful thinking, but there needs to be a preventive mindset with our lawmakers without overregulation that allows for common sense to address issues with existing laws. Earlier I mentioned the lawmaking process as making sausage. There is still room for common sense when the lives and health of our citizens are at stake. We must also allow room for common sense and not overregulate, chasing companies out of business and creating real drug shortages. Significant people will be affected if this happens—unintended consequences for using a sledge hammer instead of a paper clip!

INNOVATION

Our country has been blessed with a culture of innovation that exists in both private industry and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other government agencies. We discussed in our introduction some of the discoveries to eradicate diseases, such as polio vaccines and penicillin, and lengthen our life spans. Sometimes the innovations are simple, yet effective. For example, the Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) invented a lollipop with compounded medicines for people having difficulty swallowing. These people range from children having their tonsils out to adults with throat or esophagus cancer (see Figure 9.3).

We need to work with our representatives to push for public policy that rewards—and not retards—innovation. This may be a mix of private and public incentives. It also includes legislation to protect a strong return on the investment by pharmaceutical drug supply chain participants to enable strong R&D departments. We also need to identify and champion