

September 16, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leaders McConnell and Boehner::

On behalf of patients, physicians, researchers, and other stakeholders in the medical research enterprise, we would like to express our strong support for the inclusion of a regulatory pathway for biosimilars in the *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*.

From the beginning of the debate we have urged Congress to identify the appropriate balance between access, patient safety, and the need for continued innovation. In the face of the larger unresolved questions relating to the broader healthcare reform package, we were heartened to see complementary amendments passed by both Committees of jurisdiction in the Senate and House with strong bi-partisan support.

Millions of Americans wake up every morning facing the physical and mental challenges of acute and chronic diseases and disabilities. As a nation our public policy goal should be universal access to affordable, high-quality healthcare which includes innovation such as new therapeutics and diagnostics as well as safe and effective biosimilars. We support your efforts to expand coverage and lower costs while valuing the need to incentivize future research and development into therapeutics for conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, multiple sclerosis, and the hundreds of rare disorders that remain untreated.

As you move forward with your consideration of comprehensive healthcare reform, we lend our support for the important, compromise Hagan/Enzi/Hatch and Eshoo/Inslee/Barton amendments which establish a regulatory pathway for biosimilars.

Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

AA CSA Foundation  
Alliance for Aging Research  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
Californians for Cures  
CANN - Community Access National Network  
Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University  
Children's Tumor Foundation  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
Community Health Charities  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Easter Seals  
Hereditary Disease Foundation  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
In Need Of Diagnosis, Inc.  
International Cancer Advocacy Network  
Lung Cancer Circle of Hope  
Men's Health Network  
MLD Foundation  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
Parkinson's Action Network  
Research for Cure  
RetireSafe  
The AIDS Institute  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Vital Options International

Cc: The Honorable Tom Harkin  
The Honorable Henry Waxman  
The Honorable Michael Enzi  
The Honorable Joe Barton