



January 12, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Leader Hoyer,

As you work to craft the final House-Senate agreement on healthcare reform legislation, we strongly urge you to maintain the House-passed provisions establishing a new regulatory approval pathway for "biosimilars" or "follow-on biologics." The approval pathway and patent dispute resolution process approved by the House were carefully balanced to ensure patient safety, reduce the costs of existing treatments, and promote future medical innovation and breakthroughs.

The biosimilar provisions in the House bill received the overwhelming support of the Energy and Commerce Committee, where the Eshoo-Inslee-Barton Amendment was passed by a decisive 47-11 vote. Additionally, H.R. 1548, the Eshoo-Inslee-Barton *Pathway for Biosimilars Act*, which served as the basis for the Energy and Commerce Committee-passed language, enjoys the bipartisan support of 150 Members of the House of Representatives. The Senate HELP Committee passed an almost identical amendment by a vote of 16-7. Given the broad support for the House language, we believe it is crucial to maintain these provisions in the legislation which emerges from negotiations between the House and Senate.

This critical issue has a direct impact on states, the nation's public health, our economic success, and America's global leadership in biomedical research. We appreciate your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jackie Spin

Joe Courtney

Steve Spill

Ben P. Hill

Jimmy

Sam

Charles A. Galy

Charlie McMahon

Jim Koch

Brad Elmhurst

Mike Shomyn

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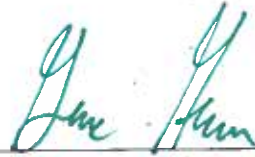
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