

May 1, 2007

Chairman Frank Pallone
Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Nathan Deal
Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Deal:

We applaud your commitment to facilitate access to new and life-saving therapies for patients across the country. The medical research enterprise is poised to make great advancements in the treatment and cures for diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and the list continues. Numerous medications already improve and save lives every day, and many more products are in clinical trials.

As you are considering the establishment of a pathway by which the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can review and approve follow-on versions of existing biotechnology medicines, we ask that patient safety and continued medical innovations are the primary driving forces behind this effort. Any statutory pathway for follow-on biologics should include a substantial period of data exclusivity to ensure that medical innovation continues.

Market incentives have encouraged investment in cutting-edge research and development. To undermine incentives to invest in biomedical innovation could potentially slow progress in the development of breakthrough therapies to improve the health and lives of patients suffering from currently untreatable conditions.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA)
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation
Kidney Cancer Assn
National Spinal Cord Injury Association
RetireSafe