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