

CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

June 15, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair
HELP Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Ranking Member
HELP Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chair
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Harkin, Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Enzi, and Ranking Member Waxman:

We are writing to express our appreciation for your efforts to address the crisis of drug shortages by including in the user fee bill enhanced requirements for reporting shortages. The undersigned cancer patient, physician, and researcher organizations and those they represent have experienced the disruptions in care and research that have resulted from shortages of life-saving cancer drugs. No group of patients – from the youngest children to seniors – has escaped the effects of drugs in short supply, and we applaud your efforts to address these problems.

To date the most serious cancer drug shortages have been sterile injectable drugs, but there have recently been shortages of biological products used in cancer treatment. The disruptions in manufacturing and distribution that have caused severe shortages of sterile injectables threaten all forms of cancer treatment. As you resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills, we urge that you remove any doubt about the application of the enhanced reporting requirements to biological products. We believe this step is critical to providing cancer patients, physicians, and researchers the full benefit of the drug shortage protections Congress has crafted.

Thank you in advance for considering this important clarification of the drug shortage provisions of the legislation you have developed.

Sincerely,

Cancer Leadership Council

American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Cancer Support Community
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups
Fight Colorectal Cancer
International Myeloma Foundation
LIVESTRONG
Lymphoma Research Foundation
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Lung Cancer Partnership
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network