



M. Jodi Rell

GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

May 28, 2009

The Hon. Christopher J. Dodd
448 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Joseph I. Lieberman
706 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Jim Himes
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. John B. Larson
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Christopher Murphy
501 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Joseph Courtney
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Connecticut Congressional Delegation:

As you and I have seen firsthand, the biotechnology industry is integral to Connecticut's economy. Over 50,000 of our fellow residents are employed by biopharmaceutical firms. State biotech firms received \$35 million of venture capital investment in the first three months of this year alone.

As the elected representatives of the people of Connecticut, you and I must ensure that engines of economic growth – like the biotech industry – continue to thrive in our state. With this responsibility in mind, I ask for your support of H.R. 1548, The Pathway for Biosimilars Act.

Biosimilars mimic the effects of state-of-the-art protein drugs presently used to treat deadly illnesses like cancer and AIDS. Protein drugs tend to be expensive. A year's supply can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Biosimilars could provide the same medical benefits but at a lower cost.

For the sake of patients nationwide, we must find a way to bring biosimilars to market. But we also must protect the interests of innovative biotech firms. If we don't strike a delicate legislative balance, we risk stunting medical research and crippling one of our most important industries.

More than \$1 billion goes into research and development for each new protein drug. Scientists and firms depend on strong intellectual property protections in order to recoup that billion-dollar investment.

The Pathway for Biosimilars Act balances the importance of giving patients access to biosimilars with the need to sustain medical research in Connecticut and elsewhere. It does so by giving protein drug inventors 12 years before they have to share their proprietary research data with other firms.

Twelve years should be seen as a bare minimum. The University of Connecticut's Joseph Golec recently concluded that it takes 17 years for a biotechnology company to recover its upfront investment on a protein drug. No other bill in Congress will protect biotech research as effectively as that Pathway for Biosimilars Act.

Connecticut's economic future depends on sustained contributions from a healthy biotech sector. The Pathway for Biosimilars Act will ensure that our state's scientists continue to create out life-saving treatments – and that patients nationwide will be able to access them.

I hope that you will join me in supporting it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

M. Jodi Rell
Governor