

# SHEET METAL WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN  
GENERAL PRESIDENT

March 30, 2009

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy,

On behalf of our 150,000 members, I am writing in support of legislation that creates an approval pathway for follow-on biologic products. Our members work in building biopharmaceutical research and manufacturing facilities across the country, and also benefit from access to biologics and will benefit from access to follow-on versions as well. While we have historically supported many efforts to decrease the burden of health care costs on our members, we want to make sure that these efforts are undertaken in a way that preserves innovation and maintains a strong domestic platform for jobs and ensures patient safety.

As negotiations on this bill move forward, I believe it is important for Congress to understand the impact this legislation could have on our membership, both positively and negatively. We believe it is essential to pass the bill this year because it is one way to lower health care costs. However, and just as importantly, any bill that gives the FDA the authority to approve follow-on biologics should preserve and grow U.S. jobs.

As you know, the biotech revolution of the last 25 years has led to enormous job growth. Nationally, the U.S. biopharmaceutical sector employs 686,000 people and supports another 2.5 million more jobs in other industries. Investment in research and development by both the public and private sector has had a significant impact on all of us – from access to new treatments to diseases to new opportunities for our members to exercise their trade. When facilities are built and maintained, companies rely on the highly-skilled labor our members provide. The industry needs to continue

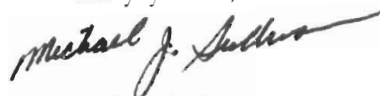
to grow here in the U.S. and policymakers should understand the relationship between its success and ours.

As you write legislation on follow-on biologics, you should know it is essential to craft the right balance between lowering prices for biologics in the near-term and protecting the investment that leads to job growth in the future. We believe 12 years of data exclusivity for biologics meets this threshold and ask that you consider it when you are drafting your bill.

We appreciate your work on this issue, particularly given the critical state of our economy, and ask that you keep our views in mind.

With best wishes, I remain.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Sullivan".

Michael J. Sullivan  
General President

cc: Mark Ayers, President B&CTD  
Vince Panvini, Legislative Director