



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eskoo
Fourteenth District
California*

June 22, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I watched with great interest your speech to the American Medical Association this week, and I agree with you that comprehensive healthcare reform is one of the most urgent matters facing our country today. One of the greatest obstacles to true reform is the trillion-dollar price tag which most experts agree will be necessary to make health care affordable for all Americans.

Among the items you identified to help pay the costs of reform is the creation of a pathway at the FDA for approving follow-on versions of biologics, and I wholeheartedly agree. In order to establish such a pathway, I've introduced H.R. 1548, the *Pathway for Biosimilars Act*. This legislation creates a regulatory pathway for FDA approval of 'biosimilars' or 'follow-on biologics' that protects patients, promotes competition, and preserves innovation. H.R. 1548 would also save patients, insurers, and the government billions of dollars in healthcare costs, as well as create a new, competitive biosimilars industry.

Last year, the Chief Scientist of the Food and Drug Administration provided responses to questions about biosimilars policy from the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee, which are enclosed. These responses provided strong support for the policies embodied in the *Pathway for Biosimilars Act*. I'm proud to be joined by more than 100 bipartisan House cosponsors and the legislation has been endorsed by the Association of American Universities, the National Venture Capital Association, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the governors of four states, and a wide array of patient and industry groups.

I look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that healthcare reform legislation includes a pathway for approval of biosimilars based on sound science to protect patients, preserve innovation and save dollars in our overall healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "nna Eshoo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop for the "nna" part and a long horizontal stroke for the "Eshoo" part.

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Jim Messina, Deputy Chief of Staff
Dr. Robert Kocher, Special Assistant to the President, National Economic Council
Dr. John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
Ms. Nancy Ann Min DeParle, Office of Health Care Reform
Mr. Peter Orzag, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Keith Fontenot, Associate Director of Health Programs, Office of Management and Budget