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FOR AGING RESEARCH

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July 16, 2009

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U. S. House of Representatives
205 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo,

The Alliance for Aging Research supports the amendment on biosimilars that you intend to offer to the *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*. As you know, for the past 23 years our organization has endorsed policies that foster innovation and promote the discovery of breakthrough cures to improve the experience of aging. We feel that your amendment presents a balanced approach to making safe and affordable biosimilar products available to patients while still maintaining proper incentives to encourage biotechnology companies to invest in the development of novel therapies.

We strongly believe that the treatments developed through biotechnology will enable better care for a host of debilitating age-associated infirmities including type-2 diabetes, neurological diseases, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, and certain types of cancer. The creation of a well-defined process for approving biosimilars will help sustain investment in this vital area of therapy development and allow for these treatments to one day be made widely available to patients who otherwise could not have access to them.

Your compromise would help meet the needs of the patients we represent by protecting their access to ground-breaking therapies as well as their overall safety and wellbeing. We thank you leadership on this issue and hope that your amendment becomes part of the larger health reform package moving through Congress.

Sincerely,

Daniel Perry
Executive Director

Advancing Science. Enhancing Lives.