

**BOBBY JINDAL**  
Governor



## **State of Louisiana** **Office of the Governor**

October 23, 2009

The Honorable Mary Landrieu, U. S. Senate  
The Honorable David Vitter, U. S. Senate  
The Honorable Steve Scalise, U. S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Anh "Joseph" Cao, U. S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Charlie Melancon, U. S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable John Fleming, U. S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Rodney Alexander, U. S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Bill Cassidy, U. S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Charles W. Boustany, Jr., U. S. House of Representatives

Dear Louisiana Congressional Delegation Members:

I am writing to express my support for recent progress in Congress toward creating a balanced approach for the approval of follow-on biologics, or biosimilars. Not only does this important issue have a direct economic impact on our nation's public health and our continuing global leadership in biomedical research, but it also affects the sustainability of important basic research and clinical trials occurring in our state's academic research centers such as Louisiana State University, Pennington Biomedical Research Center and Tulane University.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee agreement on 12 years of data exclusivity for biologics, combined with the strong vote of support for the same in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, demonstrates that Congress is working to craft a safe pathway for the approval of biosimilars that also ensures the appropriate incentives for continued biomedical innovation.

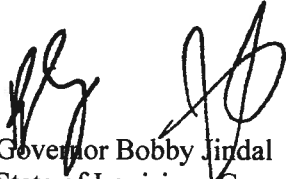
Biologics include many of the latest breakthrough therapies for serious illnesses such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and many rare diseases. Because biologics are made using living organisms, they are considerably more complicated than traditional medicines and biosimilars are never an exact copy of the original biologic. Patients and doctors need to be confident the safety and efficacy of biologics have been proven through a regulatory process that includes clinical trials.

To assure these companies continue to make investments in medical progress and take the risks necessary to bring these products to patients, innovators should be provided with appropriate incentives, including data exclusivity and appropriate protections for their patents.

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A robust bio-tech industry is critical to helping control costs and improve health care outcomes in the United States, and our country currently holds a unique world-wide advantage in the industry. I join many of my fellow governors in pledging to work collectively with Members of Congress to support legislation that will foster scientific innovation and grow our role as a leader in the development and delivery of lifesaving therapeutics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bobby Jindal', written over a printed name.

Governor Bobby Jindal  
State of Louisiana Governor's Office