

RetireSafe

Preserving Your Retirement. Securing Your Benefits.

July 16, 2009

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
205 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

On behalf of RetireSafe's nearly 400,000 senior citizen supporters across America, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the important biosimilars pathway amendment that you are offering to the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009. Based largely on the HELP Committee-passed biosimilars language, your amendment would ensure a safe, reasonable pathway for biosimilars, and, most importantly, would continue to encourage innovation. We urge your Committee on Energy and Commerce colleagues to support your amendment and to adopt it.

As you know, we have endorsed H.R. 1548, the Pathway for Biosimilars Act which you have introduced with Representatives Inslee and Barton, and which now has 133 House cosponsors. While H.R. 1548 would provide the ideal pathway for biosimilars, your amendment reflects some of the most important provisions of H.R. 1548, and would thus provide both safety and the greater expectation of new therapies and cures, especially when compared to other similar legislation which our seniors do not support.

Saving money is a hollow victory if it costs lives, and elderly Americans are at the greatest risk. While safety is most critical, your amendment also provides the 12-year data exclusivity needed to incentivize the development of new medical breakthroughs that our seniors are counting on. This exclusivity period is in line with Europe's (up to 11-year of exclusivity), and reflects the period proposed by Senator Kennedy, now and in the past.

Again, on behalf of RetireSafe's 400,000 older Americans, their children, and their grandchildren, we strongly support your important biosimilars amendment and urge the Committee to adopt it.

Sincerely,



Thair Phillips
President