

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 16, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman House Committee on Energy & Commerce 2125 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Chairman Subcommittee on Health House Committee on Energy & Commerce 2125 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
---	--


Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Pallone,

As you complete your work in drafting comprehensive healthcare reform legislation, we strongly urge you to include a pathway for biosimilars, and urge you to consider H.R. 1548, the *Pathway for Biosimilars Act*. This legislation will create a new regulatory pathway for approval of "biosimilars" or "follow-on biologics" that will protect patients, promote innovation, and save the American healthcare system billions of dollars. The Pathway for Biosimilars Act enjoys the support of 100 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 19 Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee.


The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions has already indicated that it will act on this issue in the context of healthcare reform, and we believe it's essential for our Committee to formulate a position on this matter prior to a House-Senate conference. We'd like to work collaboratively with you to ensure that there is a pathway for biosimilars that ensures adequate patient safety protections and incentives for innovation, and we'd respectfully request a meeting to discuss these issues. If we are unable to reach an agreement we intend to pursue an amendment at markup to incorporate H.R. 1548 into the Committee draft.

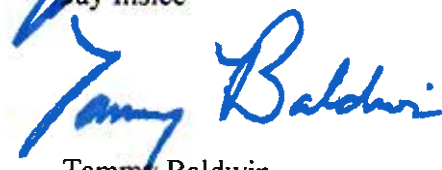
We recognize the importance of this issue in the broader context of health reform and President Obama has also incorporated savings from biosimilars into his Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. We look forward to working with you to craft healthcare reform legislation which addresses this critical matter.

Sincerely,

  
Anna G. Eshoo

  
Gene Green

  
Jay Inslee

  
Tammy Baldwin

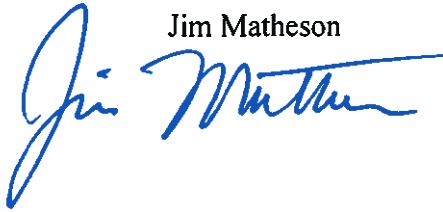
Baron P. Hill



Charlie Melancon



Jim Matheson



John Barrow



Charles A. Gonzalez

