

November 19, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Republican Leader Boehner:

As representatives from the patient and health advocacy community, we are writing to ask for your support of the *Therapeutic Discovery Project Tax Credit* as included in the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.” This tax credit is designed to encourage investment in new promising therapies to prevent, diagnose, and treat acute and chronic diseases.

Many emerging biotechnology companies are poised to make great advances in the treatment of diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, autoimmune diseases, Muscular Dystrophy, Parkinson’s disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease, cystic fibrosis and countless un- or undertreated diseases. However, America’s research and capital-intensive small companies involved in the development of next-generation technologies are struggling to raise the necessary capital to survive the current financial crisis. This is especially the case regarding the U.S. biotechnology industry.

The *Therapeutic Discovery Project Tax Credit* would inject much-needed capital into small, research-intensive companies struggling to survive a devastating capital shortfall. Following the tax precedent recently set for alternative energy companies [IRC §48C], companies with 250 employees or fewer could apply for the tax credit up to 50 percent of qualified expenses associated with the research and development of new promising therapies designed to treat or prevent diseases and conditions in tax years 2009 and 2010. These funds would sustain research into new therapies by funding activities such as hiring researchers and scientists and conducting clinical studies, investments that could not otherwise be sustained given the current investment climate.

We believe that small life sciences companies are a key component of the intellectual infrastructure of America’s 21st century economy and that the biotechnology industry will play a critical role in reducing future spending and improving quality of life for patients. A number of our patient-focused nonprofit organizations fund medical research in academia and industry and rely on these companies to shepherd, from bench-to-bedside, new and life-saving therapies for patients across the country.

We strongly urge you to support the *Therapeutic Discovery Project Tax Credit* during consideration of healthcare reform.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research
Allied Diseases Association
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
ALS Association
ALS Therapy Development Institute
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation
American Association for Cancer Research
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
CADASIL Together We Have Hope
Californians for Cures
CANN - Community Access National Network
CARES Foundation
Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University
Centronuclear Myopathy Project
Children's Tumor Foundation
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Cure Duchenne
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Easter Seals
Epilepsy Therapy Project
Family Resource Network
Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc.
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance
Genetic Alliance
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey
Huntington's Disease Society of America
In Need Of Diagnosis, Inc.
International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN)
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Jeffery Modell Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Awareness Coalition
Kidney Cancer Association

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lung Cancer Alliance
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Myotubular Myopathy Resource Group
National Health Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Spinal Cord Injury Association
National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association
New Bridge Services, Inc.
New Jersey Association of Mental Health Agencies
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Parkinson's Action Network
Project CF
PXE International
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
Society for Women's Health Research
Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation
Student Society for Stem Cell Research
Sturge-Weber Foundation
The Life Raft Group
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
United Spinal Association
Vital Options International

cc: Honorable Max Baucus
cc: Honorable Charles Grassley
cc: Honorable Charles Rangel
cc: Honorable Dave Camp
cc: Honorable Robert Menendez