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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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June 26, 2001

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DAVID V. MARVENTANO, STAFF DIRECTOR

**PUBLIC HEALTH GROUPS AGREE - VOTE "NO"
ON THE SANDERS AMENDMENT**

Dear Colleague:

The Sanders Amendment to the FY 2002 Agriculture Appropriation will imperil public health by creating another avenue for drug counterfeiters to penetrate the American market by defunding the ban on reimportation which was passed on a bipartisan basis in 1988.

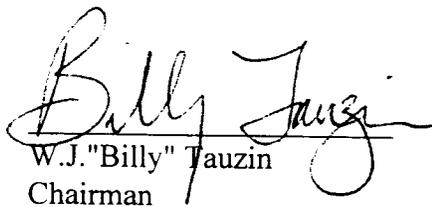
Recent articles in *The New York Times*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Business Week*, and *The Wall Street Journal* illustrate the real dangers of counterfeit pharmaceuticals and the potential for the global counterfeit epidemic to make its way to the United States. Several patient groups have expressed deep concerns that the Sanders Amendment would increase the likelihood of counterfeit pharmaceuticals entering the U.S. if the amendment were to pass.

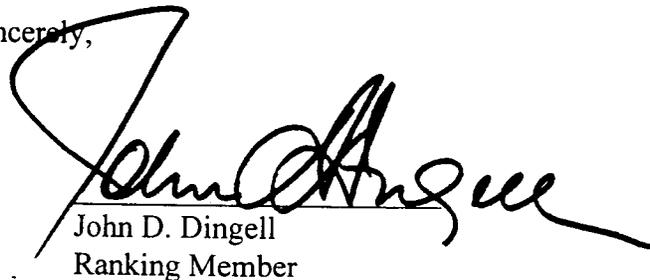
In a letter signed by the The ALS Association, the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, the National Kidney Cancer Association, the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, the National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project, and the Title II Community AIDS National Network, these groups state the Sanders Amendment:

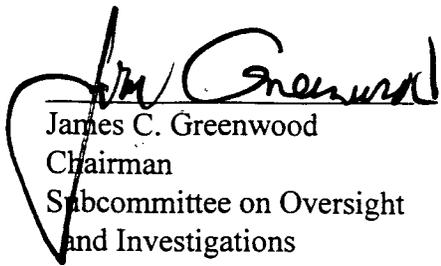
"will have a significant impact on FDA's ability to protect the public health and [is] not an appropriate or acceptable solution to prescription drug access concerns. Access to medication which poses a risk to the individual is worse than no access at all."

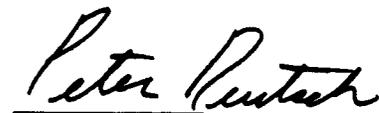
The Sanders Amendment is a grave threat to American consumers which must be defeated. We simply cannot allow Americans to be at risk of ingesting drugs processed by an individual with hepatitis in a vermin-infested house overseas, or drugs made from boric acid, floor wax, leaded highway yellow paint, or vaccines made from contaminated river water. Vote "no" on the Sanders Amendment when it is considered on the floor of the House.

Sincerely,


W.J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman


John D. Dingell
Ranking Member


James C. Greenwood
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

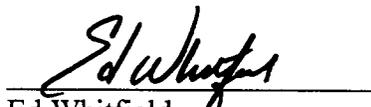

Peter Deutsch
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations


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Chairman
Subcommittee on Health


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Joe Barton
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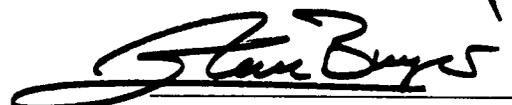

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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


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Barbara Cubin
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