

CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

September 24, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce
Committee

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce
Committee

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander, Chairman Upton, and Ranking Member Waxman:

The undersigned organizations representing cancer patients, physicians, and researchers are writing to applaud your work to advance legislation that will provide cancer patients and providers important assurances about the safety and effectiveness of prescribed drugs.

Cancer patients and providers support a pharmaceutical distribution system that will protect against the counterfeit medicines that have put cancer patients at risk in the recent past. Distribution system protections should include traceability requirements, electronic unit-level product tracing standards, and a uniform national policy for drug distribution security. We are mindful of the challenges associated with protecting patients while also ensuring flexibility to supply-chain members as they work to meet the new distribution system requirements.

We also endorse the establishment of quality standards for facilities that are compounding large volumes of complex products that may pose risks to medical consumers if not compounded properly. Although traditional compounding pharmacies should be permitted to continue their activities, those compounders that are essentially functioning as manufacturers should be required to meet appropriate standards and should be subject to appropriate oversight to ensure that their products do not cause harm.

We support your continuing efforts to develop and pass legislation that is responsive to patients who need access to all appropriate treatment options and that affords patients and healthcare providers assurances that those options will be safe and effective.

Sincerely,

Cancer Leadership Council

American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
CancerCare
Cancer Support Community
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Fight Colorectal Cancer
International Myeloma Foundation
Kidney Cancer Association
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
LIVESTRONG Foundation
Lymphoma Research Foundation
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Lung Cancer Partnership
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Susan G. Komen Advocacy Alliance
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network