

March 23rd, 2012

The Honorable Kay Hagan
United States Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagan:

On behalf of patients, physicians, and other members of the health advocacy community we are writing to express our support for S. 2113, the Transforming the Regulatory Environment to Accelerate Access to Treatments (TREAT) Act. This legislation has many positive provisions, especially the modernization and expansion of FDA's Accelerated Approval pathway to encompass a broader range of diseases and leverage 21st century drug development tools and strategies. This reform will speed the approval of much-needed therapies and cures to patients who are facing serious and life-threatening conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, autoimmune diseases, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, neuromuscular disease and hundreds of rare diseases that remain untreated.

We commend you for championing legislation that maintains the FDA's high standard for approval while at the same time ensuring the Agency can help facilitate the development of new and novel therapies to patients in a more timely manner. In many cases our patients have no available treatment for their diseases, or they are using a therapy that is older and may not work as effectively and safely. This is not acceptable. We believe that this legislation will ensure patients receive the best, modern treatment as soon as possible and we applaud your efforts on their behalf.

Thank you for your leadership on this important bill and we look forward to working with you as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Patient Access
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology (ASCP)
Californians for Cures
Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University
Colon Cancer Alliance
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Digestive Disease National Coalition
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
HealthHIV
Hope4Bridget Foundation
Huntington's Disease Society of America

Inspire
International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN)
Lung Cancer Alliance
Lupus Foundation of America
MLD Foundation
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Family Caregivers Association
National MPS Society
National Venture Capital Association
NBIA Disorders Association
New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research
Parkinson's Action Network
Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation
RARE Project
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.
Student Society for Stem Cell Research
The Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association (RSDSA)
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
Veterans Health Council
Vietnam Veterans of America
ZERO - The Project to End Prostate Cancer