



July 9, 2007

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Consumers Union, the independent, non-profit publisher of *Consumer Reports*, strongly endorses the bipartisan bill, HR 2900, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, and urges all Members of Congress to support its final passage without weakening amendments.

The passage of HR 2900, and its Senate counterpart S. 1082, should be considered one of the greatest achievements of the First Session of this Congress. It is the strongest improvement in the FDA in 45 years, and will help ensure safer prescription drugs for future generations of Americans. It in no way slows the approval of life-saving new drugs, but it gives the FDA the legal authority and the resources to monitor drugs once they are approved and take corrective actions when there are unexpected side effects and problems with those approved drugs. In many ways, it will help prevent future Vioxx-type tragedies, where tens of thousands of patients suffered from (or were exposed to) dangerous and even deadly side effects.

By providing monies for the active analysis of large medical databases, the bill will help ensure that we can more quickly detect drugs with major short- and long-term safety problems. The studies that result from these databases will also help contribute to our knowledge of the comparative effectiveness of various courses of treatment. By requiring the public registration and reporting of clinical trial results, the bill will help ensure better scientific analysis of competing medical claims and safety issues. In addition, the bill continues to improve research on the safe use of drugs and devices for children.

The House and the Senate have some provisions that differ, and we are hopeful that the strongest consumer and public health provisions of each bill will be combined in the Conference Committee process, to give us a law that will help restore public confidence in the FDA and peace of mind about the prescriptions drugs in our medicine cabinets.

Again, congratulations and thank you to all the Members who have worked so hard on behalf of this key consumer protection legislation.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Guest". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James A. Guest
President