



Nonprofit Publisher
of Consumer Reports

April 26, 2007

Senator XXXXX
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

Consumers Union, the nonprofit, independent publisher of *Consumer Reports*, urges you to support S. 1082, the Food and Drug Administration Revitalization Act, when it comes to the Senate floor, and oppose any weakening amendments to this important patient-safety legislation.

S. 1082 will save countless lives in the years to come by giving the FDA more funding and flexible tools to ensure the safety of prescription drugs and medical devices in the marketplace. It also will help return public trust in an agency that has been severely damaged by Vioxx, Paxil and other recent drug safety disasters.

There is nothing in this legislation that would slow down the approval of important, life-saving drugs. Rather, it gives the FDA effective authority to ensure safety once drugs come to market by improving the surveillance of post-market adverse events and communicating possible risks to doctors and patients.

Americans are extremely concerned about prescription drug safety and support Congressional action on the issue. A national poll recently conducted by the Consumer Reports National Research Center found that more than 60 percent of Americans agree that the FDA and Congress have failed to adequately protect consumers from harmful prescription drugs. It also found that 84 percent agree the government should "have the authority to take any action necessary" to ensure drug safety.

Please support S. 1082. We also urge you to oppose any attempts to weaken its drug safety sections, such as amendments making it much harder to trigger a quick safety action when there are signs of danger, or blocking the FDA – in very rare cases – from moderating the mass marketing of a new drug which has indications of safety problems. We also hope that as the Senate considers FDA-related legislation, a pro-consumer biogenerics bill can be added, and the FDA's advisory committee conflict-of-interest provisions strengthened.

We know that you share our interest in both speeding life-saving drugs to patients while also strengthening oversight of drugs post-market. We believe that with sufficient resources and authority, both goals are achievable through this legislation.

If you have any questions or concerns as to why the public and the FDA need this legislation, please contact William Vaughan either by phone (202) 462-6262 or by email, vaugwi@consumer.org.

Sincerely,

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