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The Honorable Henry Waxman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waxman,

I am a physician, a health care consumer and a senior executive of Aetna, one of the nation's premier health care companies with a strong interest in advancing innovative policy answers to our health care problems. I am writing to congratulate you for your leadership in introducing legislation to create a regulatory pathway for biopharmaceutical medicines (termed "Biogenics"), and I want to share our thoughts about how Biogenics can serve as a promising solution for our country's rising health care costs with no reduction in quality.

I strongly applaud your sponsorship of the "Access to Life-Saving Medicine Act" which will be introduced on a Bi-Cameral and Bi-Partisan basis.

This legislation is critical to providing Americans with access to safe, effective and affordable Biogenics because it would create a much-needed abbreviated FDA-approval pathway for Biogenics and also save the healthcare system billions of dollars.

The legislation does not seek to pre-judge the science or safety aspects of Biogenics in any way; that is up to the FDA, its scientists and the resources available to the FDA. Nor does the legislation interfere with our existing patent system. The purpose of the bill is to authorize a regulatory approval process for the generic version of these very promising biopharmaceutical medicines.

Biogenics are everyday medicines derived from living cells and other natural sources to manufacture life-improving and life-saving drugs to treat conditions such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, and heart attacks. These medicines are growing at an astonishing rate—almost twice the rate of traditional medicines—accounting for approximately \$30 billion in US sales and 12% of all pharmaceuticals.

Biogenics would provide consumers with access to these life-saving drugs at an affordable price. The average cost of a one day supply of biotech drugs is \$45, while synthetic drugs cost an average of \$1.66 per day. Even a 5% to 10% reduction in biopharmaceutical costs would amount to millions in savings to consumers and the healthcare system.

For patients covered by Aetna plans, we paid \$2.6B for Biogenics in 2006 (out of total pharmacy spending by Aetna in 2006 of over \$6 Billion). If one uses the average savings listed in the above paragraph, the potential savings for Aetna's customers and consumers nationally would be very significant.

On behalf of Aetna and our customers, I thank you for introducing this important legislation. Aetna will continue to work with your office and Congress to advance your legislative proposal

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William E. Hauser, Jr.".

William E. Hauser, Jr., MD
Regional Medical Director
Aetna Inc.

CC: Jonathan M. Topodas
Aetna Inc.
Washington, DC