



March 9, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) urges you to support H.R. 1038 and its Senate counterpart S. 623, "The Access to Life-Saving Medicine Act." Accessible, affordable health care is the number one concern of working families, and generic drugs have been an important source of moderation on ever-rising health care costs.

The Access to Life-Saving Medicine Act would allow the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve abbreviated applications for generic versions of biotech drugs licensed under the Public Health Service Act. Competition from generic biologic drugs that are safe and effective, after a fair period of patent protection that rewards innovation and investment, would make it possible for thousands of patients to have access to drugs that treat diseases such as diabetes and cancer.

The often lifelong treatment costs for chronic conditions such as diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis are responsible for an increasing share of employer, worker, and taxpayer spending on health care. As Congress reauthorizes and reforms laws governing the FDA this year, the time is right to include this important reform that will bring significant benefits to all of us who purchase health care.

Sincerely,

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