



December 20, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairs Mikulski and Rogers and Ranking Members Shelby and Lowey:

With Congress having passed budgets for both Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015, we are encouraged that, for the first time in recent memory, appropriators have an opportunity to select funding priorities through a regular-order process. On behalf of the more than 180 consumer, patient and industry groups, who are members of the Alliance for a Stronger FDA, we urge you to make funding the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) a national priority.

As you know, FDA regulates products accounting for nearly twenty-five cents of every consumer dollar spent in the United States. FDA is responsible for ensuring the safety of our country's vast supply of cosmetics, food, and animal feed and the safety and efficacy of our country's medical products.

Since the passage of the Budget Control Act, FDA's appropriated resources have been greatly diminished. In Fiscal Year 2012, the FDA's appropriated budget was \$2.506 billion. In Fiscal Year 2013, FDA's post-sequester, post rescission appropriations level was \$2.386 billion -- a drop of \$120 million. The Sequester also reduced FDA's user fees by \$85 million.

Even while FDA's budget has been decreasing, its responsibilities have grown. A significant factor in that growth is new responsibilities given to the agency from Congress. Those responsibilities include new food safety requirements, a new biosimilars program, a number of FDASIA initiatives (which include drug and device changes plus a large new generics program and initiatives for rare diseases), and regulating drug compounding. In addition, FDA-regulated products are becoming increasingly globalized and the science involved has become significantly more complex.

The imbalance between FDA's funding and its expanding portfolio of public health responsibilities has left it critically short funded to effectively carry out its mission as the world's premier protector of public health. Increased funding for FDA is needed to ensure that the Agency has the resources it needs to further fund its food science and inspection capacity, further fund oversight of drugs and devices to assure their safety and efficacy, and upgrade seriously outdated information technology systems.

The Alliance's members respectfully urge you to make FDA funding a priority in FY 2014 and FY 2015.

Sincerely,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
AdvaMed--the Advanced Medical Technology
Association
Alliance for Aging Research
American Association for Cancer Research
(AACR)
American Institute for Medical and Biological
Engineering (AIMBE)
American Red Cross
American Society for Pharmacology &
Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
American Spice Trade Association
Amgen
Association of Clinical Research Organizations
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)
California Healthcare Institute
Catalyst Health Care Consulting
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children's Tumor Foundation
Coalition for Healthcare Communication
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Council for Responsible Nutrition
Critical Path Institute
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Drug Safety Institute
EMD Serono, Inc.
FasterCures
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA).
Friends of Cancer Research
GBS/CIDP Foundation International
Genentech
Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA)
Haffner Associates, LLC

HPS Group
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
Ikaria, Inc.
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Bottled Water Association
International Myeloma Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
Lynch Syndrome International
Marfan Foundation
Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council
(MassMEDIC)
Medical Device Manufacturers Association
Mylan
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Treasury Employees Union
Orphan Solutions
Parkinson's Action Network
Pet Food Institute
Pfizer
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Sanofi
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Scleroderma Foundation
Shire
Society for Women's Health Research
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
Teva Pharmaceutical Industries
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Melanoma Research Alliance
The TMJ Association
United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP)

cc:

The Honorable Mark Pryor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food & Drug Administration
United States Senate

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food & Drug Administration
United States Senate

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food & Drug Administration
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food & Drug Administration
United States House of Representatives