



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society
DC Public Policy
Office

February 26, 2007

The Honorable Henry Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Waxman:

Thank you for your leadership in developing legislation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create a well-defined regulatory pathway for comparable biologic pharmaceutical products based on rigorous, scientific standards. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is pleased to support H.R. 1038 – the Access to Life-Saving Medicine Act of 2007.

For the 400,000 individuals nationwide who live with the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis (MS), this legislation promises safe, effective, affordable, and comparable biologic drug alternatives. Americans affected by MS depend on biologic drugs to sustain or improve their quality of life. Many of the primary medical treatments for MS are biologic drugs. Unfortunately, for those families living with MS, the cost of these treatments can be staggering. The Society has heard from a significant number of people living with MS who have been forced to stop taking their prescribed therapy because they cannot afford it. No matter how good a drug might be, it cannot be effective if it is not affordable.

The Society appreciates your shared commitment to the establishment of a long-overdue, science-based, safe pathway for comparable biologics. We are confident, that through your leadership, H.R. 1038 will fill that unmet need. The Society also is pleased that the legislation provides FDA scientists with the discretion and flexibility that they need to make scientifically-based judgments about the comparability and interchangeability of biotech products on a case-by-case basis.

We look forward to working with Congress to get H.R. 1038 enacted this year. In fact, the Society's MS activists will take this issue to each of their legislators during our annual MS Public Policy Conference on March 14, 2007. Under your leadership, we are hopeful that the promise of comparable and interchangeable biologic drugs can be realized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Joyce Nelson
President and CEO
National Multiple Sclerosis Society