

John J. Castellani

President & Chief Executive Officer

July 9, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone,

PhRMA applauds the House Energy and Commerce Committee's tireless commitment to bring forth H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, and strongly supports the passage on H.R. 6 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Scientific, regulatory and payment policy reforms included in H.R. 6 are essential to ensuring medical advances continue to be made and are available to the patients who need them. Advancing reforms across the discovery, development, and delivery of medical innovation to accelerate availability of new treatments for patients is one of the nation's highest health priorities.

Furthermore, PhRMA strongly supports the inclusion of language in H.R. 6 that exempts future Food and Drug Administration (FDA) user fees from sequestration, which is critical to ensure the FDA is able to fulfill its public health mission by fostering timely patient access to safe and effective new medicines and advancing regulatory science.

There may be no higher public health priority than enhancing the system for researching, developing, and delivering innovative healthcare treatments for patients in the United States and around the world. We believe that H.R. 6 will help to enhance the FDA's ability to adapt to cutting edge technologies utilized by America's biopharmaceutical companies to bring new medicines to patients and their healthcare professionals -- from new biomarkers, to the use of real world data to assess the benefits and risks of medicines throughout their lifecycle, to new communication methods in our evolving healthcare ecosystem.

We look forward to swift passage of H.R. 6 and continued work with the Senate to address these important issues to ensure patients have access to the most innovative treatments.

Sincerely,

