

James C. Greenwood
President & CEO

March 15, 2007

Jon M. Kingsdale, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority
100 City Hall Plaza
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Inclusion of Prescription Drugs for Minimum Creditable Coverage

Dear Dr. Kingsdale:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), I am writing regarding the Connector Board's recent endorsement of plans for Commonwealth Choice. Specifically, we are urging the Connector Board to include a prescription drug benefit as part of the standards for minimum creditable coverage (MCC).

BIO represents more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and 31 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products, with over 300 biotech drugs in clinical development addressing cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and other intractable diseases.

BIO and its member companies are committed to expanding the boundaries of science by developing and delivering innovative and needed medications to patients. As a member of the healthcare community, BIO recognizes the need for sustainable solutions to help more people secure healthcare coverage and gain access to the latest innovations in medical treatment. Massachusetts is a world leader in developing innovative biotechnology medicines that are treating millions of people worldwide. Proposals that limit access to drugs, particularly innovative biotechnology drugs, could lead to a reduced standard of care and possibly negatively impact the Commonwealth's position as a center of excellence for biotechnology research and development.

We applaud the efforts of the Commonwealth and the Connector Board to embark on healthcare reform and develop affordable products offering comprehensive coverage for uninsured individuals and small businesses. Access to prescription drugs is a crucial



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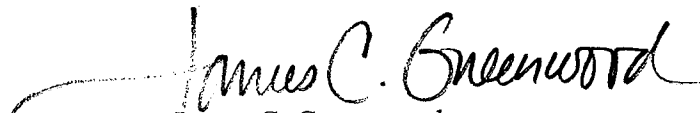
component of comprehensive coverage and should not be omitted from the coverage options open to participants of Commonwealth Choice.

All proposals to help the uninsured should maintain beneficial access to innovative therapies. These innovative therapies provide a greater quality of life for many patients with life-threatening diseases. Proposals that limit access to innovative medical technology can lead to potential delays in obtaining medical care, resulting in higher healthcare costs.

Although BIO acknowledges the Commonwealth's fundamental need to provide cost-effective medical coverage for the uninsured, we are deeply concerned about the implications of excluding prescription drugs as a covered benefit. Any attempt to improve and maintain the health of patients must include access to prescription drugs. Prescription drugs are a necessary component in the treatment of chronic diseases, and maintaining good health through disease prevention. Access to innovative medications is the key not only for improving our health, but also for ultimately lowering health care costs.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 962-9200.

Sincerely,


James C. Greenwood
President & CEO
Biotechnology Industry Organization

cc: Board of Directors, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority