

June 18, 2014

The Honorable Peter Roskam
227 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roskam:

On behalf of California Healthcare Institute (CHI) – the statewide public policy organization representing California’s leading biomedical innovators, including over 275 medical device, diagnostic, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, research universities and private, non-profit institutes, and venture capital firms – I am writing to thank you for your legislation (H.R. 4187, the Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms or DISARM Act) to promote research and development into needed new antimicrobial products.

Your legislation follows on the success of the 2012 Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now (GAIN) Act, also supported by CHI, which addressed the FDA regulatory framework pertaining to antimicrobials. Specifically, to further encourage and promote needed antimicrobial research, investment and innovation, DISARM would modify the existing Medicare New Technology Add-On Payment (NTAP) program to target products designed to treat the most dangerous bacterial and fungal pathogens. By addressing payment and delivery mechanisms, DISARM compliments GAIN’s FDA-related reforms and rounds out factors key to product development decisions of investors and companies alike.

CHI is pleased to join with a broad set of stakeholders in support of DISARM. We also understand others continue to work with you on certain provisions, such as pertain to products that receive a Qualified Infectious Disease Product (QIDP) designation under the GAIN Act. Were modifications to the measure successful in maintaining and further bolstering stakeholder support for the targeted goals of the legislation, CHI would encourage their consideration.

Thank you for your thoughtful leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Todd E. Gillenwater
President & CEO