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The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

July 21, 2010

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

As you work to develop the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2012, we respectfully urge you to make the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) a major priority.

As you know, FDA regulates products that represent nearly 25 percent of consumer spending in America – including products that help patients fighting serious diseases like cancer. However, today's FDA faces severe resource constraints due to years of chronic under funding and an exponential increase in the agency's public health responsibilities.

As NIH and NCI funded medical research continues to develop scientific advances, the FDA serves as the nexus between new discoveries and routine cancer care. Without a well-funded and scientifically-rigorous FDA, this process will become bottle-necked. Providing FDA the resources that it needs to further incorporate cutting-edge science will streamline the translation of medical research from early stage discovery to clinical application for the benefit of patients.

Consistent funding increases over a sustained period of time are essential to restoring the agency's capacity to handle a rapidly growing list of complex public health responsibilities. The agency's FY 10 staffing level from budget authority appropriations is the same as it was in 1994, however the responsibilities have drastically increased during that same time period.

Continuing chronic under funding of FDA affects our public health, hinders our economy and compromises our national security. Because of this we are requesting a minimum increase of 20 percent over the FY11 budget.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ellen V. Sigal, PhD
Chair & Founder

Jeff. Allen, PhD
Executive Director