

Jim Abeler
State Representative

District 48B
Cities of Anoka and Ramsey
Anoka County



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: EDUCATION FINANCE; HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE;
VICE-CHAIR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES POLICY; **CHAIR,** LICENSING SUBCOMMITTEE

April 11, 2007

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

Reference: Docket #2206P-0405

I am writing to express my support for the UCB Citizen's Petition. As a policy maker who has served in the Minnesota House of Representatives and also in my role as a chiropractic health care provider, I support the goal of seizure freedom with minimal side effects for people living with epilepsy.

It is clear that epileptic patients need special protections, as a result of a narrow therapeutic index and the specific nature of the disorder. A breakthrough seizure can cause disruption in an epileptic's life such as loss of a driver's license. A breakthrough seizure can also lead to severe injury or death, which can result in unnecessary increases in health care expenditures.

One of the main issues I focus on at the legislature is achieving cost savings in the health care system. The Patient Protection Act, a bill I authored this legislative session, aims to enact measures to protect epileptic patients from blanket policies for substitution that can have unintended negative consequences.

An important provision of the Citizen's Petition is the inclusion of a statement in prescribing information, which outlines the particular risks associated with substituting drugs in stabilized patients and advises extreme caution in this matter. Another of the important provisions of the Citizen's Petition is a recommendation to narrow the bioequivalence range for generic versions of anti-epileptic drugs. These measures are important and can improve the quality of treatment for people living with epilepsy.

As a policy maker, I urge you to consider the complications associated with epilepsy, which are addressed in the Citizen's Petition and to support these important patient protection measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Abeler". Below the signature, the number "2006P-0405" is handwritten in black ink.

Rep. Jim Abeler

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