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April 22, 2000

Sidney M. Wolfe, M. D., Director
Public Citizens Health Research Group
1600 20th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Dr. Wolfe:

Referring to your March 7, 2000 letter addressed to Jane Henney, M. D., Commissioner of Food and Drug Administration, regarding your Glitazone Petition, I wish to report my recent experience with AVANDIA!

I am 82 years old and have had Type II Diabetes for a number of years, taking various diabetic medications during this period - otherwise was in relatively good health.

For the past two years, I was taking Glucophage and Glynase but on Dec. 19, 1999, my Doctor switched me to AVANDIA 8 Mg. once per day.

On January 17, 2000, my feet, legs and thighs swelled to twice their size with no warning whatsoever.

Upon going to the Doctor, I was diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure but told to continue the AVANDIA. (I have never been advised of any previous heart problems in my entire life.)

The swelling continued with some shortness of breath and various tests were ordered, including Kidney Scan, X-Rays, Blood Tests and Echo-Cardiogram.

The Cardiogram indicated some Heart Valve problems and my general condition seemed to worsen.

On February 19, while watching TV, I passed out and was taken to the Hospital with a Blood Sugar of - 34.

I remained in the Hospital for 10 days - diagnosed with severe Edema (on a Ventilator for 48 hours), heart problems (valves and possible blockage), Kidney problems (50% function), Blood sugar problems (too low and erratic) Congestive Heart Failure, Anemia, Pneumonia and weight gain of 25 lbs.

All of this has left me in an extremely weakened condition with permanent Heart and Kidney damage and I am told that I was near death in the Hospital.

My Doctor has told me that he is quite certain that all of this was triggered by taking AVANDIA for over 3 months and I must agree. Neither the Doctor nor I were warned regarding these serious side effects of AVANDIA!

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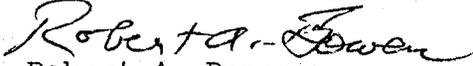
April 22, 2000

Hopefully, this report will help to strengthen your PETITION of March 7, 2000.

If I can supply you with additional information, please contact me at the above address until May 16. (After May 22, I can be reached at

62 Knollbrook Road
Rochester, New York 14610
Phone: 716-482-5652

Very Truly Yours,


Robert A. Bowen

CC: Jane Henney, M.D. Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Md. 20857



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