



National Health Council

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Myrl Weinberg, FASAE, CAE
National Health Council

January 11, 2012

The Honorable Leonard Lance
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jay Inslee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Lance and Inslee:

The National Health Council (NHC) wishes to express our sincere gratitude to you for your sponsorship and introduction of H.R. 3497, the Modernizing Our Drugs and Diagnostics Evaluation and Regulatory Network (MODDERN) Cures Act of 2011. The bill you have proposed creates a truly vital pathway for the development of new cures and treatments that have the potential to improve the lives of millions of Americans living with chronic diseases and disabilities.

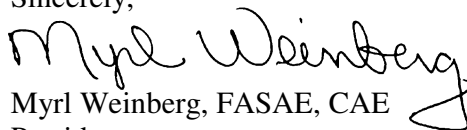
We endorse and support the MODDERN Cures Act.

The NHC is the only organization of its kind that brings together all segments of the health community to provide a united voice for the more than 133 million people with chronic diseases and disabilities and their family caregivers. Made up of more than 100 national health-related organizations, its core membership includes approximately 50 of the nation's leading patient advocacy groups, which control its governance. Other members include professional and membership associations, nonprofit organizations with an interest in health, and major pharmaceutical, health insurance, medical device, and biotechnology companies.

Many conditions currently have few or no treatments to affect the course of the disease. People with chronic diseases and disabilities such as ALS, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, lupus, and Parkinson's disease are desperately in need of therapies that will stop or slow the progression of their disease or even offer a cure. Others who are living with conditions that have effective treatments lack tools to predict which treatments will work for them. With this legislation, you have provided the incentive for researchers to pursue innovative therapies that would otherwise be abandoned for reasons having nothing to do with efficacy or safety, and to develop innovative diagnostic tests that help deliver personalized medicine.

The NHC looks forward to working with you to ensure passage of this urgently needed legislation to speed new treatments to millions of Americans living with chronic conditions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Eric Gascho, Director of Government Affairs, at egascho@nhcouncil.org or 202-973-0545.

Sincerely,


Myrl Weinberg, FASAE, CAE
President