



National Health Council

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Patient Community Welcomes Quick, Bipartisan Passage of User Fee Bills

Washington, DC (June 26, 2012) – The National Health Council (NHC) applauds the House and Senate for their quick work to pass a collection of user fee bills that will allow the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to advance its work reviewing and approving new drugs and devices. Following final approval of the legislation by Congress, NHC President Myrl Weinberg released this statement:

“The patient advocacy community deeply thanks the House and Senate for hearing the concerns of people with chronic diseases and disabilities and for passing the user fee bills in such a timely manner. We also applaud Congress for approving three specific provisions as part of the legislation that were championed by the NHC – the development of an objective, qualitative benefit-risk assessment process that includes robust patient input; expanded use of biomarkers and patient-reported outcomes in clinical trials; and support for regulatory policy, procedures, and guidance to encourage the development of treatments for rare diseases. We hope the President will sign the legislation right away so that we can begin working immediately in partnership with the FDA to create a 21st Century regulatory process for 21st Century discoveries that meet the needs of patients.”

The reauthorization legislation permits the FDA to collect user fees from drug makers and device manufacturers to help pay for the staffing and resources necessary for the agency to conduct thorough and timely reviews of potential new treatments.

Founded in 1920, the National Health Council (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 and businesses, its core membership includes approximately 50 of the nation’s leading patient advocacy groups, which control its governance.

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