



# Dear Senator Reed and Senator Whitehouse:

On behalf of the New England Biotech Association (NEBA) and the Rhode Island Bio Group, **we commend the efforts underway** in Congress to improve the quality of healthcare for all Americans. Within the healthcare debate, Congress is considering legislation to create an expedited pathway for “follow-on biologics” or “biosimilars.”

We ask for your support of the creation of a **responsible pathway for biosimilars** that balances the

**clinical trial** and other data before allowing a competitor to free-ride on the data. We believe a reasonable period of data protection—**12 years**—should be an essential part of any biosimilars legislation.

We are proud that **Rhode Island is an emerging global leader in this field.** The University of Rhode Island’s new Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences is one of the **finest teaching and research laboratories in the U.S.** Important biotech companies

***We urge your support  
on this issue to ensure that  
Rhode Island remains a  
biotech leader. This would be  
good for patients across the world  
and good for jobs  
right here in Rhode Island.***

need to **reduce health care costs** and **protect patient safety** while **promoting incentives for innovation.** By supporting the principles in the 110th Congress as part of “The Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2007,” we believe you can achieve these goals. That bipartisan, compromise legislation supported a **12-year period of protection for our member companies’ clinical trial and other data.**

As you know, science is an iterative process and each product advancement is built upon prior knowledge of how a molecule works within the body. As new biotech medicines are developed and brought to market, it is essential for innovators to **retain rights to their**

such as Alexion, Amgen and Neurotech call Rhode Island home to their state-of-the-art facilities. **The life sciences sector employs more than 38,000 Rhode Islanders.** This great success would not have been possible without your support.

The future for biotechnology in Rhode Island looks very promising. However, risks remain and **the outcome of the biosimilars debate will play an enormous role in the future success of our industry.**

For these reasons, Rhode Island’s biotech community **needs your leadership and support now more than ever.**

**Sincerely,**

**Paula Newton**

Chairman, New England Biotech Association

**Kathie Shields**

Executive Director, Rhode Island BioGroup