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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4009

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Sherstad, Backlund, Cody, Thompson, O'Brien,  
D. Schmidt, Lambert and Skinner

Read first time 02/03/97. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, Improving patient access to quality health care is a  
9 paramount national goal; and

10           WHEREAS, The key to improved health care, especially for persons  
11 with serious unmet medical needs, is the rapid approval of safe and  
12 effective new drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and

13           WHEREAS, Minimizing the delay between discovery and eventual  
14 approval of a new drug, biological product, or medical device derived  
15 from research conducted by innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology  
16 companies could improve the lives of millions of Americans; and

17           WHEREAS, Current limitations on the dissemination of information  
18 about pharmaceutical products reduce the availability of information to  
19 physicians, other health care professionals, and patients, and unfairly  
20 limit the right of free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment to the  
21 United States Constitution; and

1       WHEREAS, The current rules and practices governing the review of  
2 new drugs, biological products, and medical devices by the United  
3 States Food and Drug Administration can delay approvals and are  
4 unnecessarily expensive;

5       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
6 Congress of the United States address this important issue by enacting  
7 comprehensive legislation to facilitate the rapid review and approval  
8 of innovative new drugs, biological products, and medical devices,  
9 without compromising patient safety or product effectiveness.

10       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
11 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
12 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
13 of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the United  
14 States Senate and the United States House of Representatives.

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