**Amanda Kowalski**
3525 Aynsley Drive , Rochester Hills, Michigan 48306

December 27, 2007

Representative Joe Knollenberg
U.S. House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Representative Knollenberg,

In November 2007, a coalition of doctors, scientists and animal protection groups filed the Mandatory Alternatives Petition (MAP) with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), asking that the agency require the use of currently-available, "scientifically proven," non-animal toxicological methods to reduce the numbers of animals killed in drug testing. I am writing to ask that you or a trusted member of your staff review the MAP (www.alternatives-petition.org) and write a letter in support of the petition, to the FDA.

The FDA has the authority to require that pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers make this important change to the drug testing strategies currently in place. In July 2004, FDA Acting Commissioner, Lester M. Crawford, revealed that 92% of all drugs tested in animals, failed in human clinical trials - often resulting in life-threatening side effects like those seen most recently in Vioxx. This unacceptable failure rate and its resulting damage to human health indicate a dire need for a new drug testing paradigm.

Non-animal test methods, using human cell lines, micro-dosing (a procedure in which micro-amounts of the test substance are given to humans, allowing researchers to see the metabolism of the drug), and computer modeling, are all more predictive of a drug's effect on humans than tests on mice, rats, dogs, and primates can ever be. The MAP discusses these methods in detail and argues persuasively for their use in the FDA- required protocols for drug testing.

The European Union (EU) is ahead of the U.S. insofar as legal requirements mandating high-tech, scientifically-relevant, non-animal test methods. The European Union (EU) Directive 86/609, Article 7.2 states, "An experiment shall not be performed [on an animal], if another scientifically satisfactory method of obtaining the result sought, not entailing the use of an animal, is reasonably and practicably available." This requirement is legally binding on all EU member states. Adoption of a similar requirement in the US would go far toward harmonizing policy and practice on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as toward replacing animal use with scientifically satisfactory non-animal alternatives.

I thank you for your attention to this important issue and look forward to receiving a copy of your letter to the FDA.

Sincerely,
Amanda Kowalski