

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 4, 2007

The Honorable Andrew von Eschenbach, M.D.  
Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dr. von Eschenbach:

In the course of oversight work relating to drug safety, Committee on Energy and Commerce staff has become aware of data and scientific analyses supporting the conclusion that the drug rosiglitazone (Avandia), a diabetes drug taken by millions of patients, substantially increases the risk of heart attacks. We understand that the FDA is in possession of at least some of this information and is reviewing this safety issue.

Some of us joined Senator Grassley in an earlier communication on this topic. We write to you today in the spirit of protecting the public health to express the broad nature of the concern here. Based on our understanding of what staff has learned, we are concerned about the severity and likelihood of harm to some patients currently taking this drug while the FDA determines the appropriate action under customary procedures.

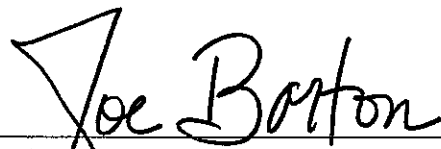
We would be most appreciative if the FDA could meet with Committee staff by May 15, 2007, to explain the process for determining the action to be taken, and whether FDA can either expedite this process as a public health emergency and/or take any appropriate, interim steps to protect public health before it makes a final decision.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration to this request.

Sincerely,



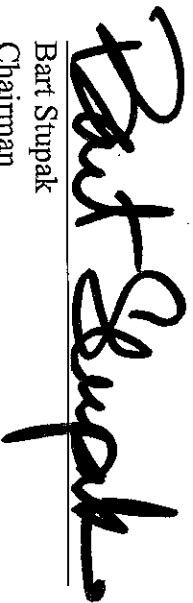
John D. Dingell  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

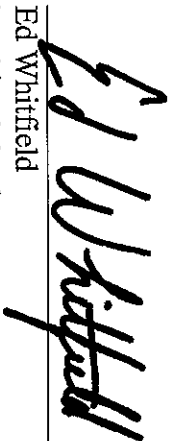
The Honorable Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.

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Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations

  
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Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Oversight  
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Henry Waxman

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Government Reform

  
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Ranking Member

Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform