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The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing in response to your February 26 letter to Johnson & Johnson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer William Weldon regarding the Company's financial relationships with medical organizations. You asked what steps the Company has taken, or is planning to take, to enhance the transparency of our relationships with these groups.

Relationships with physicians and the organizations that represent them are critical to healthcare manufacturers' capacity to design and develop new products, improve standards of care, train physicians to use new technology, and understand patients' needs.

We support the objectives of the legislation that you and Senator Kohl introduced, and we would like to work with both of you as it moves through the process. We hope that any legislative proposal in this area would provide for appropriate context, not compromise proprietary information, and preserve important and necessary relationships between manufacturers and physicians that foster innovation.

As you may be aware, Johnson & Johnson is a decentralized corporation composed of more than a hundred individual companies, each of which is responsible for its own programs and relationships. We are committed to appropriate disclosure that provides patients with context to enhance dialogue with their physicians.

Our companies are in the process of assessing how best to achieve this goal. We expect that by the end of the first quarter of 2009, our U.S.-based pharmaceutical and medical device and diagnostics companies will, on a rolling basis, implement web-based disclosure of financial relationships with medical professional societies and healthcare-related charitable foundations. Further, they will include information about financial relationships with patient advocacy organizations. The website content will provide specific financial disclosure as well as context for these financial relationships. This will be done on a prospective basis, with prior notification to the recipient organizations.

Sincerely,

Russell C. Deyo
Vice President and General Counsel