



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

<http://finance.senate.gov>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Reporters and Editors
FR: Jill Kozeny, 202/224-1308
RE: FDA Panel Meeting
DA: September 14, 2004

Sen. Chuck Grassley issued the following comment about the conclusions reached at the September 13-14 advisory board hearing of the Food and Drug Administration. Sen. Grassley is chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and has been conducting oversight of the Food and Drug Administration's handling of information about the pediatric use of antidepressants.

“Given the scientific findings, it’s obvious that the strongest label warning for this class of drugs is critically important for the health and safety of young Americans. The Food and Drug Administration needs to learn an important lesson from what’s developed this year on the matter of kids and antidepressants. Transparency in government is the best policy. Parents and doctors should not be left in the dark, and especially when information that’s available could be a matter of life and death. It looks like this week’s meeting resulted in the right outcome in this particular dispute, but I intend to stay on the lookout with other public watchdogs for any kind of systemic problems that may exist within the Food and Drug Administration.”