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November 3, 2003

Federal Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room #1061
Rockville, MD 20852-0001

Re: M. D. Anderson Leukemia Drug Study Cancelled

Dear Sir or Madam:

My dearest friend, Sylvia Hart, is a patient at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas and she is suffering from Chronic Myleogenous Leukemia, referred to as CML. She has undergone treatment with 4 previous chemotherapies, all of which have lost their effectiveness or caused her severe allergic reactions. For the past two years she has been part of a clinical drug study at M. D. Anderson and is being treated with Homoharringtonine ("HHT"). She has felt better on HHT than with anything else since she was diagnosed 7 years ago.

On Wednesday, October 29th, the Federal Drug Administration put a "hold" on this drug. There was no advance notice and no explanation! She was to receive her next treatment the following day on Thursday, October 30th. The M. D. Anderson doctors are presenting individual cases to Oncopharm Corporation, the drug company involved, and then will meet with the FDA in order to see if they may continue treating certain people. While waiting for the outcome, Sylvia and other patients may be switched to other drugs that are less effective for them, and their blood chemistry could be thrown out of balance. In Sylvia's case, being out of balance could become terminal very quickly.

Without this HHT treatment there is only one other trial drug treatment which may not even work for her. If there is any way you could possibly help speed up this process I would appreciate it immensely.

Sincerely,

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