

November 28, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Rogers, Lowey, Aderholt, and Farr:

On behalf of American consumers, we are writing to share with you a letter we previously sent to the House Energy and Commerce Committee which emphasized the continued need for the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office of Criminal Investigation's (OCI) important work in protecting consumers and pursuing criminal enterprises that are illegally selling and distributing drugs not approved for sale in the United States. In sharing this letter, we hope that the Appropriations Committee includes language in its Committee Report which recognizes the essential role played by the OCI, and provides the resources needed to carry out its mission.

FDA, through the OCI, works on the front lines of consumer protection, ensuring product safety and integrity of medications for American patients. OCI also works to investigate and shut down pharmacies that are operating outside the law, including manufacturing, distributing or selling counterfeit products.

OCI's work is a critical element in FDA's efforts to ensure patient safety, affirm that doctors are using safe and legal treatments and products, and protect consumers from exposure to counterfeit and substandard drugs. We ask you to join us in recognizing the vital role OCI plays on behalf of consumers and ensuring that the Office is provided with sufficient funding to fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

Caregiver Action Network
Consumers Union
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Center for Health Research
National Consumers League
National Women's Health Network
Public Citizen
Society for Women's Health Research