

February 16, 2007

Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Joseph Lieberman
706 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express their sincere appreciation for your sponsorship of the Federal Research Public Access Act in 109th Congress, and to urge you to resubmit and continue to promote this important legislation in the 110th Congress.

The dissemination of scientific, and especially medical, research findings is integral to achieving advances that have the potential to save and improve countless lives. The Internet now provides an unprecedented opportunity to amplify the rewards of medical research by making it more widely and easily available than ever before. Greater access to scientific findings helps scientists build on cutting edge research and match pressing challenges with available expertise, accelerating innovation that provides treatments and cures.

It is also critically important to expand access to medical research findings for patients, their loved ones, and their physicians. Peer-reviewed medical papers already available online are of great benefit to doctors in informing treatment decisions and providing patients and their loved ones with invaluable tools that better inform and empower them. However, too few papers are now readily available to the public online, including the majority of papers supported with taxpayer funding. Many online scientific papers require expensive subscriptions or appear in rare journals that even most scientists cannot access while others are not placed online at all. Congress should ensure that the public reaps the full value of its investment in science by making publicly funded scientific publications easily available to scientists, medical researchers, physicians, students and patients.

As organizations concerned with public health and a fair return on public investment in the creation of knowledge, we greatly appreciate your efforts on this issue, and encourage your continued diligence in working with the 110th Congress to take the next step and passes this important legislation. We are pleased to be part of a broad coalition, including hundreds of consumers, academics, librarians, students and many other stakeholders that have expressed their support for the Public Access Act, in order to ensure barrier-free access to taxpayer-funded research (see: <http://www.taxpayeraccess.org/member.html>).

If you have questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Ben Krohmal of Knowledge Ecology International at (202) 332 2670.

Respectfully,

AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition

Alliance for Human Research Protection (AHRP)

American Medical Student Association

Arthritis Foundation

Autism Speaks

C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition

Center for International Environmental Law

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Chemical Sensitivity Disorders Association

Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue

Community Catalyst

Christopher Reeve Foundation

Connecticut Legal Services

Consumer Federation of America

Consumer Union

Essential Action

Families USA

Genetic Alliance

Genetic Alliance BioBank

Harm Reduction Coalition

Health GAP (Global Access Project)

International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association

Knowledge Ecology International

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

National Tay Sachs and Allied Diseases Association

Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy

People's Health Movement – USA

PXE International

Universities Allied for Essential Medicine

William E. Morris Institute for Justice

In the spirit of open and collaborative science that transcends national borders, the following non-US based groups also add their support:

Consumer Association for Quality of Life (EKPIZO)

Consumers' Protection Center (KEPKA)

Health Action International – Europe

Healthy Skepticism Inc

Insulin Dependant Diabetes Trust

International Society of Drug Bulletins

Korean Pharmacists for Democratic Society

Wemos Foundation

Zimbabwe AIDS Prevention Project (ZAPP)