

NPAF National Patient Advocate Foundation

The Patient's Voice | since 1996

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nancy Davenport-Ennis
CEO, President
Patient Advocate Foundation

Edward G. Connet, Esquire
Board President
Essex Richards, PA

Christian Downs, MHA, JD
Board Vice President
Executive Director
Association of Community Cancer Centers

Leah Arnett, RN, BSN, MHCA
Board Secretary
Nursing Director
University Health Services
University of Texas at Austin

John L. Murphy
Board Financial Officer
Saguenay Capital, LLC

Bruce Avery, MD
Hematology-Oncology Knoxville
Alan J. Balch, Ph.D.
Vice President
Preventive Health Partnership

Rene Cabral-Daniels, JD, MPH
Vice President of Grant Programs
Williamsburg Community Health Foundation

Richard D. Carter, Esquire
Carter & Lay
Patient Advocate Foundation

Dennis A. Gastineau, MD
Director, Human Cell Therapy Laboratory
Divisions of Transfusion Medicine & Hematology
Mayo Clinic

Venus Ginés, MA
Founder & CEO
Dia de la Mujer Latina, Inc.

The Honorable Phil Hamilton
Virginia House of Delegates
Pearl Moore, RN, MN, FAAN
CEO (Ret.)
Oncology Nursing Society

Roy Ramthun
President
HSA Consulting Services

Sheldon Weinhaus, Esquire
Weinhaus & Potashnick

SCIENTIFIC BOARD

Lori Williams, PhD, DSN, RN, AOCN
Chair, PAF Scientific Board of Directors
University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center

David Brizel, MD
Professor
Duke University Health System
Radiation Oncology Department

Robert M. Rifkin, MD, FACP
Director, Cellular Therapeutics
Rocky Mountain Blood & Marrow Transplant Program
Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers

F. Marc Stewart, MD
Professor of Medicine, University of Washington
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Richard L. Theriault, DO, MBA
Professor of Medicine
MD Anderson Cancer Center

HONORARY BOARD

The Honorable Mary T. Christian
Virginia House of Delegates (Ret.)

The Honorable Patrick Dougherty
Missouri State Senate (Ret.)

Paula Trahan-Rieger, RN, MSN, ACON, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer
Oncology Nursing Society

Leo Sands
Executive VP & Chief Administrative Officer
US Oncology
Doris Simonson

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Byron Dorgan
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan,

On behalf of the National Patient Advocate Foundation, I want to express our appreciation for your support for S. 982, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. We hope the Senate will swiftly enact this legislation, and the Congress will send it to the President for signature.

We also appreciate your goal of providing the federal government with the ability to put in place a system of strict safeguards to guarantee the quality, safety and authenticity of any imported pharmaceutical products. We believe, however, that attaching to S. 982 an amendment regarding the importation of foreign pharmaceutical products, no matter how worthy the goal, threatens to derail passage of this life-saving legislation. In addition, we strongly believe drug importation legislation needs to be very carefully considered and reviewed by committees in Congress in order to assure that patients only receive products of the highest quality and safety. Lowering drug prices for Americans well serves patients; any compromise in quality or safety resulting from haste would not.

For these reasons, we urge you not to offer your amendment regarding drug importation to S. 982 and to oppose all amendments that might threaten or delay passage of S. 982.

Sincerely,



Nancy Davenport-Ennis
President and CEO
National Patient Advocate Foundation