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December 6, 2002

Via Fax: 301/594-6197

DR JANET WOODCOCK
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
1451 ROCKVILLE PIKE
ROOM 6027
ROCKVILLE MARYLAND 20852

Dear Dr. Woodcock:

As we prepare for next week's Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Issues Relating to the Safety of Accutane", I have updated the list of Accutane associated suicides reported to my office. The attached 37 deaths were reported to my office between 6/1/01 and today. It does not include the 38 names forwarded to your office on March 1, 2001 the additional 15 names sent on May 25, 2001.

I do not know how many of these deaths were reported to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), although each reporter received written correspondence from my office urging them to report the adverse event to the FDA. Of course, I do not also know how many other suicides or Accutane-related deaths have been reported through MedWatch, but not to my office.

It would be helpful to have accurate, up to date figures at the December 11 hearing.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me, or Leslie Thomsen, my staff counsel on this issue, at 202/225-4735.

Sincerely,



BART STUPAK
Member of Congress
BTS/lat

cc: Patrick McGarey (fax 301/827-1614)

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