



The Honorable Xavier Becerra
United States House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Per Fax to: 202-225-2202

Attn.: The Honorable Mr. Xavier Becerra

Re: Genomic Research and Diagnostic Accessibility Act of 2007

Friday, May 25, 2007

Dear Congressman Becerra:

CyGene is an emerging member of the biotech community involved in both diagnostics and therapeutics. Our core technologies focus on molecular diagnostics to which the above referenced Bill speaks. The promise of detecting genetic disease and disease predispositions as well as pathogens based on their DNA blueprint will soon enable early, pre-symptomatic disease detection, monitoring, intervention and prevention. The benefit to the public's overall health and the resulting impact on medical care cost reduction will be dramatic.

It is critical that researchers and small innovative companies such as CyGene have access to use patented genetic sequences. Without this access, the promise of the genomics revolution will be sold short. The detrimental impact gene patents have on our public health became evident to me shortly after joining CyGene, almost ten years ago. We approached Chiron Corp. with the request that CyGene be allowed to test its new molecular detection methodologies on the Hepatitis C virus for which they were granted a genetic sequence patent. This research could have resulted in a new more accurate test for a much earlier diagnosis of this deadly virus, making possible its treatment with more effective and inexpensive medications. Chiron not so much as honored our request with a written reply, stating on a telephone conversation that they were negotiating a deal worth over a billion dollars that involved the sale of a competing detection technology that included a non-exclusive license of this gene and that CyGene was not sufficiently capitalized to even negotiate a license or to warrant further conversations.

We strongly support your Bill and offer our assistance to contribute to your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin Munzer".

Martin Munzer
President & CEO