



**Keck School of Medicine**  
**University of Southern California**

May 28, 2007

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The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
United States House of Representatives  
2347 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Becerra:

I am a USC physician who works at the Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Center in East Los Angeles. Representative Roybal, your predecessor, had a long history of caring for the underserved. As a physician attempting to provide health care to those who struggle with poverty and lack of access to care, I try to make sense of the world of medicine and how it applies to them. I am fortunate to be able to bring technology and research to this population, to expand their opportunities for health, although not all change represents true progress. Our ever expanding ability to decode the human genome provides the potential for a myriad of new cures and treatments. However, the patenting of human genes is something I strongly oppose. I believe that this creates impediments to research, health care delivery and increases health care costs. It will make it more difficult for any of us to benefit from the newest in health advances.

The practice of granting patents on human genetic material fails to substantially serve the United States' Constitutional goal of "promoting the progress of Science". Contrary to the system's aim of encouraging innovation, the privatization and exclusive control of human genes is not only inhibiting biomedical research, it is also interfering with patient care, and runs counter to traditions in patent law serving to protect the public health and welfare. For these reasons, I support the "Genomic Research and Accessibility Act".

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne Peters, MD  
Director, USC Clinical Diabetes Programs  
Professor, USC Keck School of Medicine  
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