

[Your Name]
[Street Address]
[City, ST ZIP Code]
September 2, 2011

[Representative's Name]
[Street Address]
[City, ST ZIP Code]

Dear **[Recipient Name]**:

My name is

"[Introduce yourself, where you live and describe your diagnosis treatment and prognosis]"
"[Give a description of your quality of life on appropriate medications]" Due to this diagnosis **[I/She/He]** cannot absorb nutrients from the food and must rely on IV fluids and medications to grow and survive. Currently **[I/She/He]** am doing well but **[my/his/her]** life is dependent on a range of drugs to eat, stay hydrated and free of life-threatening infections.

Currently, more than 150 drugs are listed as being in short supply including life-saving drugs, drugs to relieve pain, drugs to treat serious infections, medications used to provide parenteral nutrition (intravenous nutrition like **"[insert name]"** uses), chemotherapy medications, and more. Where these drugs are unavailable, doctors and pharmacists are being forced to use alternatives that have safety concerns, higher risk of error, and increased healthcare costs. When an alternative is unavailable, patients have no choice but to go without and hope for the best. **[For kids like mine]**, if they can't get these nutrients through medication they will develop deficiencies that will only complicate their disease and put them at additional risk.

This is what causes me to write at this time to ask for your support in addressing the patient harm that is caused by drug shortages. Specifically, I am asking you to cosponsor S. 296, HR 2245) a bill that would help address the issues leading to drug shortages.

Additionally, although this legislation is a start towards addressing this problem we do not have time to wait for legislation to move through Congress. This problem is affecting our lives now. We also ask that in the time that it takes to move the legislation through Congress that you do all you can to work with the FDA and members of the pharmaceutical industry to find a solution to this problem.

Thank you for your help in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information. I look forward to working with you as we work to resolve this important public health and patient safety issue.

[Your Name]