



**CONGRESSMAN VERN BUCHANAN**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

January 29, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn HOB  
Washington DC

Dear Chairman Dingell,

A number of my constituents have contacted me concerning the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) decision to delay approval of Provenge for terminally ill patients with prostate cancer. I am writing to add my voice of support for congressional hearings into the FDA's decision.

Many studies show that Provenge is a potentially life-saving therapy for those suffering from advanced prostate cancer. In March 2007, the FDA's own expert advisory panel voted unanimously that Provenge is safe and voted 13 to 4 that it was effective. Yet, the FDA in May 2007 overruled this panel and asked for additional data - delaying a potentially important life-saving drug from patients.

As a member of Congress, I believe we must provide the necessary oversight to ensure that the federal approval process of life-saving therapies such as Provenge is prompt and efficient. On behalf of my constituents, I request the Energy and Commerce Committee conduct a hearing to discuss the FDA's decision.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

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