



June 1, 2010

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
Chairman

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Ranking Minority Member

Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
U. S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Issa:

Congratulations on your May 27th excellent hearing last week on the "Johnson & Johnson's Recall of Children's Tylenol and Other Children's Medicines."

In addition to the enhanced recall authorities referenced in the hearing, Consumers Union believes that the FDA needs more resources to ensure a more adequate level of inspections, especially internationally. The Administration's FY 2011 budget requested authority to charge for re-inspections of FDA-regulated plants and facilities (see attached). Given the repeated J&J/McNeil Healthcare problems identified by the FDA, we believe charging for the cost of such repeated visits and consultations would

- speed the responsiveness of companies in addressing the issues (especially if such repeat inspections was a matter of public record);
- provide some needed additional resources to the FDA so that other company plant inspections are not lessened because of the extra cost of repeat inspections at one company's facility.

We believe that legislation adopting the Administration's budget request would be very timely and popular, and help stretch the FDA's budget by approximately \$13 million a

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year to better protect the public. We hope your Committee could recommend early action on this budget proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


William Vaughan
Health Policy Analyst