



April 11, 2011

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Thornberry:

The American College of Rheumatology would like to express our support for the *Part D Off-Label Prescription Parity Act, (H.R. 1055)*. This legislation would permit coverage of certain Part D drugs for uses that are determined to be medically accepted indications based upon clinical evidence.

Rheumatologists treat patients with complex chronic conditions. Often times therapies are available to treat these complex conditions, but are not covered under Medicare Part D. This legislation would ensure that patients have access to these therapies and that medical decisions are made by patients and their physicians, not by government bureaucrats.

The ACR commends you on your leadership in ensuring that the patient-physician relationship is paramount and that patients have access to all available therapies to improve their overall health.

If you have any questions, please contact ACR's Director of Government Affairs, Aiken Hackett at ahackett@rheumatology.org or at (404) 929-4811.

Sincerely,

Tim Laing, MD
Chair, Government Affairs Committee
American College of Rheumatology