



April 11, 2011

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Whitfield:

The American College of Rheumatology would like to express our support of H.R. 905. This legislation would ensure access to necessary treatments for the 1.3 million Americans living with rheumatoid arthritis, and millions more living with multiple sclerosis and some cancers, whose treatment and health is greatly improved through the utilization of biological treatments.

H.R. 905 would remove the prompt pay discount from the average sale price calculation for biologics and would provide a more accurate payment to physicians for these therapies. Currently physician practices do not receive fair reimbursement for biological therapies which are necessary to treat complex chronic conditions such as RA. Subsequently, this affects patient access to care and can prevent high-quality treatment.

The ACR commends you on your leadership in addressing this issue and looks forward to working with you to ensure necessary care is available to patients whose illnesses are improved by biologics.

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