# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hamburg:

As you know, patients using the cancer drug Avastin are awaiting your final ruling on whether or not to revoke the drug as a treatment option for metastatic breast cancer. Prior to making the final decision, we ask you to consider how this drug has affected our constituents battling this deadly disease.

Avastin has produced positive results for some patients battling cancer, including increasing their survival rate or extending their lives by precious months. While these experiences do not occur in everyone, currently no perfect treatment exists for terminally ill cancer patients, and we must continue to allow options for those with nowhere else to turn.

We understand that once the FDA has made a final decision, providers will still be able to prescribe Avastin. However, if this drug is considered off-label, some insurance companies may side with your decision and no longer cover the cost, resulting in decreased patient access. Essentially, the FDA's decision would remove this drug as an option for treatment.

Decisions on patient treatment for this serious disease should be made between patients and their providers. We strongly urge you to take into consideration the lives of our constituents during their quest to fight breast cancer. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this important matter.

Sincerely yours,