BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN
ARKANSAS

355 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: (202) 224-4843

www.lincoln.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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August 26, 2010

Dr. Margaret Hamburg
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dr. Hamburg:

I am writing to convey the concerns and experiences of my constituents, T. David Carruth of Clarendon, Arkansas, regarding a recent recommendation by the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Oncology Drug Advisory Commission (ODAC) on Avastin.

In 2008, the FDA granted temporary approval to Avastin for use in treating breast cancer while further research was conducted into the safety and effectiveness of the drug. The FDA is currently considering a final ruling. In July, ODAC recommended that the FDA revoke the approval of Avastin for breast cancer treatment. While not mentioned in its report, there are concerns that the high price of this medication played a role in ODAC's recommendation.

I have included by attachment Mr. David Carruth's account of his wife's experience with Avastin as part of her breast cancer treatment. I encourage you to take this testimonial into consideration as you work to make a final determination. Like Mr. Carruth, I strongly believe it is the FDA's responsibility to make these decisions based solely on available scientific and medical evidence and not on any economic considerations.

Thank you in advance for your thorough attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Blanche L. Lincoln
United States Senator

Cc: Mr. T. David Carruth