

May 21, 2008

The Honorable Charles Grassley,
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

I write in support of your recent revisions to the *Physician Payment Sunshine Act*. The significant and substantive revisions you announced strike the appropriate balance, and I am appreciative of your commitment to continue working with industry. I am pleased to support your proposed legislation.

On February 26, 2008 you wrote to AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP (“AstraZeneca”) inquiring as to the steps we were taking to enhance the transparency of our financial relationships with medical organizations and tell us of legislation you had introduced regarding transparency—the *Physician Payment Sunshine Act*. In our response we told you of our commitment to transparency, belief that transparency is integral to patient health, and indicated our willingness to work with you and your staff on appropriately balancing the goals of the legislation.

As we noted in our March 10 letter, we believed it was important that legislative proposals to enhance the transparency of financial relationships between physicians and companies be relevant, accurate, and provided in a manner clearly understandable to those viewing it. Moreover, we believed it critically important that the *Physician Payment Sunshine Act* preempt enacted or pending state laws regarding payments to physicians for speaker programs, advisory boards, consulting fees, honoraria, and related travel expenses. Your revised legislation meets these objectives. (We believe a single uniform registry, as embodied in your revisions, that captures payments made to physicians by biopharmaceutical companies, device manufacturers, and medical supply companies is the best approach to provide physician payment information to patients.)

AstraZeneca understands and appreciates your interest and the interest of others in making more transparent relationships between physicians and the biopharmaceutical and device industries. We believe such transparency can build trust and help patients better understand the basis for payments made to physicians by biopharmaceutical/ device companies. AstraZeneca is committed to improving patient health by helping ensure physicians are knowledgeable about our products and by providing physicians with timely, relevant information that enables them to make the best treatment decisions for their patients.

The Honorable Charles Grassley
May 21, 2008
Page 2

AstraZeneca appreciates the revisions you and your staff made to this legislation. Through your efforts, patients will now have additional information about physician/ industry relationships and companies will be able to effectively implement the legislation's reporting requirements.

AstraZeneca's commitment to enhancing our transparency is ongoing. Last year, AstraZeneca decided to make public our medical education grants, contributions to non-profit organizations, political action committee contributions, and phase IV commitments. This information will be posted to our site over the course of 2008. In addition, we made information regarding our policy positions, compliance program, and clinical trials more accessible on our external web site. In May 2008, we extended the scope of our clinical trial disclosures to include information about the registration and results of all AstraZeneca sponsored clinical trials for all products in all phases, including marketed medicines, drugs in development, and drugs whose further development has been discontinued.

We will continually evaluate opportunities to further enhance our transparency to ensure we are fulfilling our commitment to patient health. Our support of your legislation is part of that commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Zook", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony P. Zook