



**NATIONAL HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION**  
*for all bleeding disorders*

September 20, 2011

Representative Robert Goodlatte (R-VA)  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet  
2240 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Melvin Watt (D-NC)  
Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Committee  
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet  
2304 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Representative Watt,

The National Hemophilia Foundation is very supportive of the House Judiciary Committee holding a hearing today on the proposed merger of Express Scripts, Inc. and Medco Health Solutions. In particular, we urge the Committee to look closely at the implications of the merger on consumer choice and access to prescription drugs in the specialty pharmacy market.

Hemophilia is a rare, chronic bleeding disorder affecting about 20,000 people in the US, who require life-long infusions of high-cost clotting factor therapies that replace missing or deficient blood proteins, to prevent and treat debilitating and life-threatening internal bleeding. People with hemophilia receive highly specialized care from comprehensive hemophilia treatment centers, which train patients to assess their need for treatment and to self-infuse at home since rapid time-to-treatment is critically important to prevent complications. Costs for clotting factor for a person with severe hemophilia average \$300,000 annually, but are often higher if the individual needs surgery or develops an inhibitor (an immune response) to existing treatment.

Due to the high cost of hemophilia care most insurers utilize specialty pharmacy services. The proposed merger would combine two of the largest specialty pharmacies – Express Scripts' CuraScript Pharmacy and Medco's Accredo. The Foundation wants to assure: that patients have continued access to the very specialized care that is critical to their health and well-being; that choice of treatments are determined by the prescribing physician in consultation with the patient; and that cost-sharing is affordable. The Committee should evaluate the potential impact of a merger as related to these issues.

Please contact me for any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Val Bias  
Chief Executive Officer