
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: NGA LETTER TO SECRETARY THOMPSON CONCERNING GLUCOPHAGE
DATE: 12/07/01

Howard Dean, Governor of Vermont, is requesting that your signature be added to a letter to Secretary Thompson concerning Glucophage, a diabetic medication. The letter expresses concern over tactics used by the pharmaceutical companies (in this case it's Bristol-Myers Squibb) that prevent or delay consumer access to lower cost generic prescription drugs. In addition, the letter asks that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration exercise its authority to prevent such abuses, specifically for Glucophage. You recently agreed to add your signature to a similar letter concerning Prilosec. The National Governor's Association is going to help with this and will add your signature to the letter if you agree.

Governor Dean is also requesting that you join Business for Affordable Medicine, (BAM), a growing coalition of employers, governors, and organized labor leaders that are working to reduce prescription drug costs for states, consumers, and other major purchasers. Business for Affordable Medicine includes companies like Wal-Mart, Kmart, Georgia-Pacific, Verizon Communications, and Weyerhaeuser, as well as governors and labor leaders.

I have attached a letter from Governor Dean explaining the objective of BAM, as well as a list of patents that will expire over the next five years for a number of popular drugs. Patent holders are also identified on the list for your information.

Would you like to have your name added to the letter concerning Glucophage?

YES _____ NO _____

Would you like to join Business for Affordable Medicine?

YES _____ NO _____

Thanks.