

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2004

Lester Crawford
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fisher Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Crawford:

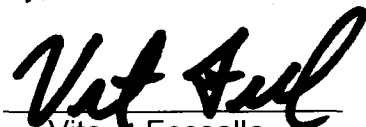
As you know, New York City is currently in dire need of more than 200,000 doses of the flu vaccine to protect our most vulnerable citizens. Recently, Mayor Bloomberg, Illinois Governor Blagojevich and others have negotiated to purchase vaccines manufactured in Germany and France from a British wholesaler. While the vaccines are considered to be investigational new drugs, European regulatory bodies have already approved them.

The next step in getting this vaccine to U.S. citizens in need is for the vaccine to receive a stamp of approval from The Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approval from the FDA will ensure this vaccine has met the highest standards in the world for distribution. For this reason, we are requesting that without sacrificing a thorough review, the FDA expedite the review process for this flu vaccine.

New York City's most vulnerable residents deserve the help of the government to protect their health in the most expeditiously manner possible. These 200,000 doses will allow our city the minimum requirements to protect these citizens. Having already experienced 4 deaths in New York City hospitals as a result of the flu, each day that passes brings us closer to the height of flu season. With an expedited, yet thorough, review we can have this vaccine available in time to save lives.

We thank you for reviewing this request in keeping with all of the relevant rules and regulations of your agency.


Sincerely,




Vito J. Fossella
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



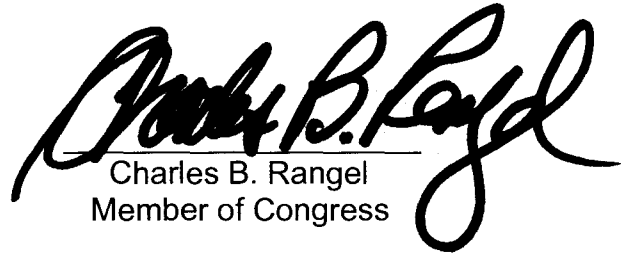
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



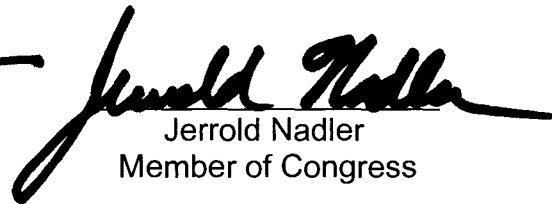
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress