Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2011

Mr. Gregory Divis, Jr.
President
Ther-Rx Corporation
Corporate Headquarters
One Corporate Woods Drive
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Dear Mr. Divis:

We recently learned that the Ther-Rx Corporation plans to sell a common medication that prevents premature birth for $1,500 per dose --- a 100-fold price increase from the current price of approximately $15. The proposed price increase to hydroxyprogesterone caproate injections is unconscionable, given that Ther-Rx did not invent this medication and therefore did not fund most of the research and development. We have deep concerns about the public health implications of your proposed pricing structure.

Premature births are one of the most significant health challenges facing the nation, and we are concerned that this price increase will prevent women from accessing medications that prevent premature births.

Every year, more than one half million babies are born premature in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prematurity is the number one cause of death for infants. Moreover, premature birth has lifelong health implications, including raising the risk of intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, respiratory conditions, vision and hearing loss, as well as digestive problems. Preventing premature birth is pivotal to protecting America's children. Not only will it endanger human health, but this price increase will raise health care costs for taxpayers and employers alike.

Previously, specialized pharmacies compounded this medication, and individual doses were estimated to cost between $10 and $20. Recently, the FDA provided orphan-drug approval to this medication, granting Ther-Rx Corporation a monopoly for seven years. Following the issuance of orphan drug approval, Ther-Rx Corporation indicated its intent to charge $1,500 per dose. Given that an individual woman can expect to take 15 to 20 doses, a regular course of treatment may cost between $22,500 and $30,000. With as many as 140,000 eligible women, the cost to the health care system could be as high as $4.2 billion.

The dramatic rise in price of this premature birth medication will create roadblocks harming vulnerable women seeking to have healthy, safe pregnancies. Premature birth has significant and

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long-term implications for children, and we urge the Ther-Rx company to consider the grave public health ramifications of this price increase.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress

Joseph Courtney
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Christopher Murphy
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress