

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 13, 2011

Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, Maryland 20993

Dear Dr. Hamburg:

As you know, Indiana is one of the world leaders in the development of medical technology that enhances and saves the lives of Hoosiers and patients around the world. We rank 7th in the nation in terms of medical device sector employment. The more than 300 FDA-registered medical device manufacturers employ 20,000 Hoosiers directly, and another 28,800 are indirectly supported by the industry. These jobs pay 41 percent higher wages than our state average and are critical to the Indiana economy.

The FDA is an integral component to supporting the innovation and development of safe and effective medical devices. Over the past several years there has been a lot of discussion about the process by which these technologies come to market. My goal is to ensure that the Agency does all that it can to incentivize, not hinder, innovation, so that patients can have access to these critically important products.

That is why I am inviting you and Dr. Shuren to come to Indiana to meet with some of the people who dedicate their daily lives to creating these revolutionary devices. I understand that you and Dr. Shuren have recently done similar events in several other states, including Massachusetts, Minnesota, California, Ohio, Florida, Texas, Colorado, and North Carolina. Given the profile of this important industry in my home state, I urge you and Dr. Shuren to come to Indiana to have an open, frank discussion with leaders in the medical device industry.

Please let me know when would work best with your schedules to come to Indiana for an informal discussion on such an important issue to my state. I am happy to work with you to find the best venue and format for what I'm sure will be a mutually beneficial exchange. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dan Coats
U.S. Senator