

08 February 2007

The Honorable Louise McIntosh-Slaughter
2469 Rayburn Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Slaughter:

IEEE-USA would like to thank you for your leadership in once again supporting passage of the genetic non-discrimination legislation and specifically H.R. 493, the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act. We know you agree that every American will benefit from this important bill.

IEEE-USA believes that genetic testing will play an important role in the prevention and treatment of a variety of diseases, including cancer and various hereditary conditions. However, genetic testing also creates new issues with regard to privacy and confidentiality. Not only will the legislation increase legal protections against any misuse of genetic information, but it will also ease the minds of those who choose genetic testing so that they can proceed without fear of discrimination.

IEEE-USA adopted in 2001 the position statement, Nondiscrimination in Employment Based on Genetic and Other Health Information that can be viewed at <http://ieeusa.org/policy/positions/geneticinformation.html> and is attached.

We feel that the research community will also benefit as they proceed to study drugs and treatments targeted to individual health status based on genetics. This legislation will also promote personalized medicine and underscore the importance of information technology as we proceed to promote wellness and conquer disease.

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 220,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. IEEE-USA is part of the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society with 360,000 members in 150 countries.

Please know that we support this legislation and will assist in its passage. If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Rudolph at (202) 530-8332 or at d.rudolph@ieee.org.

Sincerely,



John W. Meredith, P.E.
President, IEEE-USA

Encl.