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April 14, 2008

Dear Senators,

We want to encourage you to support the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) and all the procedural motions necessary to ensure this bill's success.

The Coalition for Genetic Fairness was founded in 2000 to address the growing concern surrounding the misuse of genetic information in insurance and employment decisions. Over the past eight years, our members, including civil rights, patient and health care organizations, industry, and academia, have worked to pass comprehensive federal legislation outlawing genetic discrimination.

The current lack of federal legal protections against the misuse of genetic information has restricted individuals' access to health information and clinical trials. Fear of the misuse of genetic information limits access to genetic tests. Refusal to utilize effective genetic tests hinders the ability of individuals to learn important medical information, which they could use to proactively manage their health. Fear of discrimination also causes a large number of people to opt out of clinical trials. This lack of participation in research has a negative impact on researchers, clinicians, and industry, slowing the research and development process for targeted drugs and treatments. In order to fully promote personalized medicine and the use of genetic information in healthcare, we must pass GINA.

We are encouraged by the Senate's record on this legislation, having passed it unanimously in the 108th and 109th Congresses. In addition, the House of Representatives passed GINA by an astonishing 420-3 vote last year. This legislation has strong bipartisan support and the backing of hundreds of organizations including disease advocates, industry, academia, clinicians, researchers, and community groups.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to have GINA pass swiftly.

Sincerely,

Sharon F. Terry, MA  
Chair, Coalition for Genetic Fairness

***(LETTER SENT TO ALL SENATORS)***

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CO-SIGNERS**

AA CSA Foundation  
ABQ Associates, Inc.  
American Clinical Laboratory Association  
American Heart Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Physiological Society  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society of Human Genetics  
Angioma Alliance  
APS Foundation of America, Inc  
ARPKD/CHF Alliance  
Baxter Healthcare Corporation  
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Birt Hogg Dube Family Alliance  
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue  
Expression Analysis, Inc.  
Foundation Fighting Blindness  
GeneDx  
Genetic Alliance  
Genetic Alliance BioBank  
Genetics, Ethics & Policy Consulting, Inc.  
Genzyme Corporation  
Helicos BioSciences Corporation  
IEEE-USA  
Institute of Genomic Medicine  
MAGIC Foundation  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
National Disease Clusters Alliance  
National Workrights Institute  
Navigenics  
NBIA Disorders Association  
PAGER  
Personalized Medicine Coalition  
Private Access  
PXE International  
Research America  
Shire HGT  
Smart Genetics, LLC  
THE OLIVE BRANCH FUND: A Thisbe and Noah Scott Legacy  
VHL Family Alliance  
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization