



March 23, 2010

Mr. Marc Garneau
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: Bill C-393 to reform Canada's Access to Medicines Regime

Dear Mr. Garneau,

We are writing express Oxfam Canada's support for Bill C-393 and to urge you to use your influence for it to be approved quickly by the Industry Committee. Of the many causes of the unconscionably high rates of mortality in poor countries, the lack of a sustainable supply of affordable medicines is one that Canada can directly address by reforming Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR).

Oxfam Canada and Oxfam-Québec were among the agencies who lobbied extensively for the passage of the original act that became CAMR because in our work overseas we see the tragic results of the high price of brand-name medicines. People living in poverty cannot afford to pay out of pocket, and even national health budgets lack the capacity to pay those prices.

CAMR should have been a triumph of Canadian leadership, offering a sustainable supply of affordable medicines. Sadly, it became so laden with restrictions and regulatory requirements that it has proven virtually unworkable.

By streamlining CAMR's cumbersome procedures, Bill C-393 will fulfill the intent of the original legislation, and help bring an end to the scandal of people dying of curable diseases because the medicines they desperately need are simply too expensive.

We urge you to support this bill, and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Robert Fox.

Robert Fox
Executive Director, Oxfam Canada
250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 400
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6K7

A handwritten signature of Pierre Véronneau.

Pierre Véronneau
Directeur général, Oxfam-Québec
2330, rue Notre-Dame Ouest, Bureau 200
Montréal (Québec) H3J 2Y2