

Statement from American Society of Clinical Oncology President Michael P. Link, MD, on the U.S. Senate Passage of Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act

**“The Senate should be commended for taking steps to address a current crisis in cancer care. Drug shortages continue to plague hospitals and oncology practices nationwide, forcing physicians to scramble to meet their patient’s needs.”**

**“An essential element to averting shortages is to require drug manufacturers to notify the Food and Drug Administration six months in advance of market withdrawals or manufacturing interruptions. We are pleased that the legislation includes this mandate, but it must be bolstered by fines or similar penalties to ensure that manufacturers comply. ASCO hopes that this enforcement mechanism will be added when the bill is in conference committee.”**

**“We commend Senators Harry Reid [D-Nev.], Mitch McConnell [R-Ky.], Tom Harkin [D-Iowa] and Michael Enzi [R-Wyo.] for their leadership in the passage of this bill. ASCO urges the U.S. House of Representatives to follow the Senate’s lead and pass prescription drug user fee legislation that addresses drug shortages as quickly as possible.”**

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