

Committee on Energy and Commerce

Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

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Rep. Waxman Statement on FDA Innovative Drug Approvals Report

WASHINGTON, DC— Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman released the following statement in response to the FDA report on drug approvals and approval times over the past year:

“Today’s report shows that FDA leads the world in rapid high-quality drug reviews and provides examples of the agency’s appropriate flexibility to shepherd life-saving drugs through the process. The report, like a growing body of peer reviewed studies and reports by outside advocates, demonstrates the speed and flexibility of the agency and punctures a hole in the oft-repeated myth that FDA is too slow and inflexible.

“Of course, FDA should not stand on these laurels, and I look forward to exploring policies to further improve the speed and quality of FDA decision making. But these policies must be based on hard facts about FDA’s current performance, and the first and foremost goal of these policies must be to improve the welfare of patients.”

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