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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0911

October 20, 2004

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John F. Eisold, M.D., F.A.C.P. Attending Physician United States Capitol Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Eisold:

As you know, communities throughout the country are facing shortages of the flu vaccine. Today's *Washington Post* article on this subject suggests that Members of Congress have been advised to obtain a flu vaccination, regardless of whether or not they meet the high-risk guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

I strongly believe that the flu vaccines should first be given to those within the high-risk categories outlined by the CDC. Healthy individuals, including Members of Congress and their staffs, should not be given priority in distributing these shots. The shortage of the flu vaccines this season has already created a panic throughout the country and comments implying that Members of Congress should receive special treatment will only intensify that panic and deepen the inequities of the current distribution system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Davis

Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Dennis Hastert The Honorable Nancy Pelosi