December 14, 2009

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Timothy Geithner
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Room 639G
Washington, DC 20201

Hilda Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Stuart J. Ishimaru
Acting Chairman
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
131 M Street, NE
Washington, DC 20507

cc: Robert Kocher, MD, Special Assistant to the President, National Economic Council, The White House
Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, Special Advisor for Health Policy, Office of the Director, Office of Management and Budget

Re: Interim Final Regulations on Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA)

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently I lost 55 pounds and reduced my cholesterol and blood pressure significantly because of the wellness programs offered through my employer. I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the October 7th final regulation on GINA, because, if implemented, employers will no longer have the motive and ability to provide the types of personal wellness programs that improve health, reduce healthcare costs, and increase productivity.

Employers and health plans use health history information as part of the intake process for getting people access to wellness programs that can change their lives. **If the impending final regulations on GINA are implemented in their current form, those steps will be gone and that door may close altogether.**

By doing nothing more than filling out a health history questionnaire, a wellness team was able to help me devise a plan to help me exercise and eat right. As a result, I lost weight and have more energy and am more productive at work. I no longer have to take blood pressure medication and I am saving hundreds of dollars each month. If I hadn't filled out a health history questionnaire at work, I would have never had access to these programs.

I urge you to put a stop to these regulations before they're implemented. Doing so will help so many people get healthy and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Noah Weintraub

Noah Weintraub
Calabasas, CA