
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: NGA LETTER TO SECRETARY THOMPSON CONCERNING PRILOSEC
DATE: 11/13/01

Howard Dean, Governor of Vermont, is requesting that your signature be added to the attached letter to Secretary Thompson concerning Prilosec. The National Governor's Association is going to help with this and will add your signature to the letter if you agree. The letter expresses concern over tactics used by the pharmaceutical companies that prevent or delay consumer access to lower cost generic prescription drugs. In addition, the letter asks that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration exercise its authority to prevent such abuses specifically for **Prisolec** whose patent expired on October 5, 2001. This delay costs consumers and other purchasers-including our Medicaid programs-nearly \$6 million dollars each day.

I have attached a copy of the letter for your review. NGA has your signature on file and can add it with your approval. Would you like me to have your name added on the letter supporting this?

YES _____ NO _____

Thanks.