



Congresswoman  
**Rosa L. DeLauro**

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*Press Release*

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CONTACT: Kate Cyrul  
(202) 225-3661

**DeLauro: Union of Concerned Scientists Report  
Confirms FDA Must Restore ‘Gold Standard’**  
– Report finds non-scientific reasons influencing FDA determinations –

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (Conn.-3) today issued the following statement in response to a report released today by the Union of Concerned Scientists. “Voices of Scientists at FDA: Protecting Public Health Depends on Independent Science,” surveyed 5,918 FDA scientists about the state of science at the agency. Among the findings: Almost one in five responded that they had been asked “for non-scientific reasons, to inappropriately exclude or alter technical information or conclusions in an FDA scientific document.” More than three in five knew of cases in which “Department of Health and Human Services or FDA political appointees have inappropriately injected themselves into FDA determinations or actions.” Less than half said they respected the “integrity and professionalism of FDA leadership.” Two in five described their morale as “poor to extremely poor” as compared to only four percent of scientists rating their morale as excellent.

DeLauro is the ranking member of the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee with jurisdiction and oversight responsibilities of the FDA and its budget.

“This report confirms that the FDA has a credibility problem when it comes to protecting the public health – a problem that FDA’s own scientists have now said is caused by commercial and political considerations interfering with the agency’s ability to make scientific-based determinations.

“Just last month, the nation recognized the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the FDA, an event that should have presented an opportunity to praise 100 years of this agency being the ‘gold standard’ of protecting the American consumer, of ensuring the safety of food and medical products, and promoting the nation’s public health. Yet instead, we recognize that FDA’s Gold Standard has been tarnished, with deadly consequences for thousands of families. This report confirms that FDA must restore this ‘gold standard.’”

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