May 3, 2013

Mary Jane Helenek  F. Michael Ball  John Ducker
President and CEO  CEO  President and CEO
Luitpold Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  Hospira, Inc.  APP Pharmaceuticals
One Luitpold Drive  275 N Field Drive  Three Corporate Drive
Shirley, New York 11967  Lake Forest, IL 60045  Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Dear Ms. Helenek, Mr. Ball, and Mr. Ducker,

We write to you today because you manufacture several drugs currently in shortage that are critical to the care of infants, and we ask that you cooperate closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to resolve these shortages as soon as possible.

Ensuring access to necessary and lifesaving medicines and vaccines is critical to the health and well-being of our nation’s patients. In recent years, drug shortages have become an increasingly troubling problem in the United States hitting record numbers in 2011. Although the total number of new drug shortages has declined, we are still facing shortages of over 200 drugs, including drugs used to treat cancer, reduce pain, and provide nutrition to premature and critically ill infants.

The shortage of parenteral nutrition for infants is particularly critical. Calcium gluconate, sodium phosphate, potassium phosphate, potassium acetate, sodium acetate, pediatric trace elements, adult trace elements, and zinc are used to treat critically ill infants and are currently in shortage. We are deeply concerned about the impact the shortage of these products is having on the children who depend on them.

Minimizing the impact of a drug shortage requires the cooperation of regulatory agencies, providers, manufacturers, and policy makers. We urge you to work closely with the Food and Drug Administration and focus your resources to speed or restart production of drugs that are in shortage. In addition, we urge you to provide to the affected parties an immediate and clear timeline about the impact your actions will have on the availability of these products so all necessary actions may be taken to protect patients.

Sincerely,

AMY KLOBUCHAR  ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr.
United States Senator  United States Senator