

QUESTION	Michael Capuano	Martha Coakley	Steve Pagliuca
HEALTH CARE REFORM			
Do you agree that to be successful, we must have a reformed system that embraces and makes accessible innovative medical technologies, incorporates best practices such as chronic disease management, and overhauls outdated payment methods?	Yes, and funds were made available, for example, for medical IT in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. At that time I wrote to David Blumenthal, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at HHS, expressing my concern that medical IT systems be made interoperable, as I understand they are not now, even within 95. One cannot be opposed to “best practices” but I would note, in connection with some well-publicized examples, success may be attributable to demography of patient population. Only about 5 % of Mayo Clinic patients are Medicaid eligible, and, last month, the Clinic further restricted Medicare and Medicaid patients.	Yes	Yes
BIOSIMILARS			
Do you agree that biotechnology products add great value to health care in cost-effective ways and that the impact of reform measures on the biotechnology industry must be considered in designing a reformed federal system? Further, do you believe that a reformed federal system should build upon models, which may include the Massachusetts Health Care Reform Act as well as SCHIP and Medicaid expansion that are not financed through biopharmaceutical price controls or mandated discounting?	Yes, I believe prices should be negotiated, not mandated.	I am troubled by the adverse fiscal impact biopharmaceutical price controls and mandated discounting could have on the industry's ability to develop life-saving and life-improving medications through R&D. Biotechnology products absolutely improve our nation's health and, as Senator, I will support the sector as it continues to play this role. I also remain concerned that the price of prescription drugs in this country is prohibitive for many of our sick, and would seek to find the best ways of controlling the costs of necessary medications to allow all people to gain access to the prescription drugs they need.	
A carefully crafted pathway to biosimilars is crucial to protecting innovation that drives the biotechnology industry. Do you support at least 12 years of data exclusivity for innovator products?	Yes, I am privileged now to represent great universities, research institutes, and teaching hospitals. My district thrives on intellectual capital, and its discoveries offer hope to the world. I support the 12 year period of protection.	Yes	Yes
Do you support requiring clinical testing for these complex, large molecule biologics that will ensure that patients will be treated with a safe and effective product?	Yes, I support clinical testing for any product that will be used for medical purposes. It is essential also to staff and fund the FDA so that its scientists will be able adequately to assess cutting-edge research. I am aware of weakness within the FDA and also within the PTO. The federal government must be able to attract and retain a higher level of scientific talent.	Yes	Yes
SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVES			
Do you support tax incentives that will position Massachusetts to continue as the leader in life saving innovation?	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Do you support overturning the SBA's ruling in order to allow majority venture-funded companies to apply for a portion of SBIR grants?	Yes, given the nature of biotech -- the entrepreneur may be a brilliant post-doc or junior faculty member with huge student loans to repay --- venture capital is essential to this industry.	Yes	Yes
STEM CELL RESEARCH			
Do you support embryonic stem cell research and without restrictions on federal funding for such research?	I have supported embryonic stem cell research since it first became controversial in the summer of 2001. I met then with Eric Lander, George Daley, and others at the Whitehead Institute to better understand ESC. I wanted to be able to explain the method and the great promise it holds to my colleagues in the House. I urged the scientists to find an expression for replace "therapeutic cloning" which gave rise to serious misunderstandings. George Daley proposed "cell therapy" and I regret it has not caught on. I will continue to fight for federal funding without restriction, save that of requiring the informed consent of the donor.	Yes	Yes
IMPORTATION			
Holding a position consistent with that of HHS Secretaries under both Democratic and Republican administrations, we strongly oppose importation of pharmaceuticals from foreign countries. Do you agree, and do you believe that because of the inability to regulate scrupulously products imported from many foreign sources, we must refrain from allowing these potentially unsafe or counterfeit medications into our domestic drug system? Importation proposals have also been rendered irrelevant by dramatically increased access afforded by Medicare Part D and patient assistance programs. Do you oppose the importation of pharmaceuticals from foreign countries?	I have always maintained that drug importation was not a good solution for US consumers. There are safety issues: advanced industrial countries permitted the use of thalidomide. Moreover, this is a very short-term fix: countries that subsidize pharmaceuticals for their own citizens will surely be unwilling to provide them indefinitely to Americans. I support reforms which would empower the federal government to negotiate drug prices for public programs, Medicare, Medicaid, and, if progress continues on health reform, the new public option.	As you, I am very concerned about the safety of pharmaceuticals imported from foreign countries. The Food and Drug Administration prohibits importation of unapproved new drugs, including foreign-made versions of U.S. approved drugs that have not been manufactured in accordance with and pursuant to FDA approval. I tend to agree that the risk of providing unsafe foreign products to our citizens to save money is not a good idea. I am wary of the precedent it sets, as most R&D takes place in the United States, and then benefits foreign companies who can produce drugs at much lower costs. However, I am also concerned with the high price of prescription drugs for our nation's seniors as well as our citizenry at large, Thus, I think it is important to continue to explore an array of methods of reducing the price of medication.	Yes
PATENT REFORM			
Do you support patent reform that would reinforce strong patent protections and discourage patent infringement ensuring a balanced and fair outcome?	I support patent reform, and a strong global defense of intellectual property rights. I voted against Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China on these grounds, and also because the treaty did not protect fundamental human rights, including the right to organize free trade unions, or impose minimal environmental regulations.	Yes	Yes

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INCREASED FUNDING			
Do you support increased funding for the NIH?	I have consistently supported increased funding for both the NIH and the NSF. We need basic research in life sciences, but also in mathematics and physics. Without these, we would not have CAT scans, MRI's, or the advanced computers on which biomedical research crucially relies.	Yes	Yes
Do you support increased funding for the Food & Drug Administration?	Yes	Yes	Yes
OTHERS			
Do you support government price controls on pharmaceuticals procured through the Medicare Part D drug benefit?	No	I support the Biotechnology Industry's work to develop drugs, produce them and sell them for a profit, and I recognize the level of risk companies must take in order to successfully innovate in this area. It is difficult to measure the vast importance of the R&D work of the companies in this industry, as new and better pharmaceuticals help countless people across the world. Nonetheless, we must use all tools to slow the increase in the cost of drugs, so Medicare beneficiaries and all taxpayers can continue to afford their share of the program, which is vital to the survival of our nation's seniors. I am not opposed to exploring innovative ways of reducing prices for prescription drugs, but, as I work with colleagues to develop policies in Washington, I will certainly remain an advocate of protecting the fiscal saliency of biotech companies.	I support the Obama administration in its efforts to close the Medicare Part D coverage gap as part of comprehensive health care reform. My health care reform principles can be found on my website at http://www.stevepagliuca.com/vision/healthcare .
Do you support making the federal Research & Development tax credit permanent?	I would support multi-year provision of R&D tax credits, so that businesses may plan with stable expectations. I would prefer that Congress review the credits from time to time. There may be sound reasons to increase them, and I am averse to removing any program from Congressional scrutiny.	Yes	Yes
Do you support making the federal Research & Development tax credit refundable?	No	Yes	Yes