



441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

March 20, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter, jointly signed by Senate President Pro Tempore Orrin Hatch and Senator Tom Cotton, requesting that the Government Accountability Office review the approval process for orphan drugs.

GAO accepts your request as work that is within the scope of its authority. At the current time we anticipate that staff with the required skills will be available to initiate an engagement in about nine months. Your request has been assigned to Ms. A. Nicole Clowers, Managing Director, Health Care. Closer to the time GAO can start this engagement, Ms. Clowers or a member of her team will contact Ms. Karen Summar to confirm that this request continues to be your priority for us. As applicable, we will also be in contact with the cognizant Inspector General's office to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts. If an issue arises during this coordination, we will consult with you regarding its resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Clowers at 202-512-4010 or clowersa@gao.gov, or Mr. David Lewis, Assistant Director, Congressional Relations, on my staff at 202-512-7176 or lewisd@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katherine Siggerud'.

Katherine Siggerud
Managing Director
Congressional Relations

cc: Ms. Karen Summar

Ref: CCAR 17-0498