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Dr. Endang Rahayu Sedyaningsih  
Jl. HR. Rasuna Said Blok X-5 Kav. 4-9, Blok A, 2nd Floor  
Jakarta 12950  
Indonesia

March 20, 2012

Dear Dr. Endang Rahayu Sedyaningsih,

Public Citizen is a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. Our areas of focus include health care, global trade and access to medicines. In the Global Access to Medicines Program at Public Citizen, one of our missions is to provide pro bono technical legal assistance to countries to help them facilitate the expansion of cost-lowering generic pharmaceutical competition.

We understand that in 2014 the Global Fund will no longer be able to provide financial support for Indonesia's HIV/AIDS response. To date, the Global Fund has disbursed over 118 million USD toward HIV/AIDS programs in Indonesia and is currently supporting approximately 20,000 people living with HIV with antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. Withdrawal of the Global Fund's support may place a heavy burden on Indonesia's resources for combatting the disease.

As more costs of HIV treatment are shifted to the Indonesian government, it will become even more crucial to ensure that the high cost of patented pharmaceutical products is not a barrier to treatment for people living with HIV. In 2004 and 2007, the Indonesian government granted compulsory licenses for the patents related to three ARV drugs: lamivudine, nevirapine and efavirenz. These licenses facilitated generic competition which in turn led to reduced prices and increased access. For example, the price of patented lamivudine (3TC) prior to the 2004 license was approximately 290 USD for a one month supply, while the price of generic 3TC after government-use authorization ranged from only 18-65 USD.

Recently, the International Treatment and Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) Indonesia sent you a letter advocating for compulsory licensing of patents for second-line HIV medicines including tenofovir, tenofovir/emtricitabine, ritonavir and lopinavir/ritonavir. Some of these second-line ARV medicines can cost as much as 2,000 USD per person per year. Compulsory licensing is a proven method for expanding access to patented medicines when prices are high.

We are writing you today to support ITPC Indonesia's request and to offer our assistance. Our program has worked extensively with governments and civil society groups in the past to aid in the successful implementation of compulsory licenses. We wish to provide you with any support you may need as you consider this request.

We hope Indonesia will once again exercise its rights to ensure access to medicines.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Maybarduk".

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Burcu Kilic".

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