

EOSINOPHILIC & RARE DISEASE *COOPERATIVE*

May 6, 2025

Eric Longnecker
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Technology Security
Bureau of Industry and Security
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Stephen Astle
Director, Defense Industrial Base Division
Bureau of Industry Security
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Longnecker and Director Astle:

Eosinophilic & Rare Disease Cooperative respectfully requests that you exempt pharmaceuticals and medical supplies from tariff discussions and implementation. As a nonprofit committed to equitable healthcare access, we believe these tariffs pose a serious threat to public health by increasing the cost of essential medicines and critical medical equipment—creating dangerous and unnecessary barriers to care.

Tariffs on pharmaceuticals directly undermine efforts to keep life-saving treatments affordable and accessible. For individuals living with chronic illnesses, autoimmune diseases, rare conditions, and complex health challenges, even minor cost increases can lead to delayed treatment, missed doses, or complete loss of access. These consequences are not only unjust—they are preventable.

Tariffs on medical supplies—such as diagnostic tools, infusion materials, and personal protective equipment—also disrupt supply chains and inflate healthcare provider costs. These increases are often passed on to patients, insurers, and under-resourced clinics, straining an already fragile system.

As a patient- and care partner-run organization, we understand these issues firsthand. One of our team members has been living with EGPA. Without appropriate medical treatment, 80% of people with this disease will not live beyond five years.

Please allow us to illustrate the human cost:



People with autoimmune diseases like vasculitis or myasthenia gravis often rely on infusion therapies such as rituximab to prevent irreversible organ damage.

These infusions depend on access to saline, IV tubing, pumps, needles, gloves, and premedication such as acetaminophen, steroids, and antihistamines. Tariffs on any of these items could critically delay treatment and put lives at risk.



EOSINOPHILIC & RARE DISEASE *COOPERATIVE*

Many of the individuals we serve live on fixed incomes such as Social Security Disability Insurance—a program they have paid into for decades. For them, the cost of care is already a high barrier. Tariffs on healthcare products could push essential treatments out of reach, with potentially fatal consequences.

We are especially concerned about the disproportionate impact on low-income individuals, rural populations, and those dependent on public programs or nonprofit assistance. Tariffs that increase the price of essential healthcare goods exacerbate health disparities and conflict with the fundamental belief that healthcare is a human right—not a commodity.

We call on policymakers to prioritize public health over protectionist trade policy. We urge you to exempt pharmaceuticals and medical supplies from tariffs and adopt alternative approaches that support domestic manufacturing without compromising patient care.

In times of global health uncertainty, we must work together to eliminate—not escalate—barriers to care. Access to affordable medicine and supplies is not negotiable.

Please exempt healthcare supplies and medications from any tariffs being considered.

Sincerely,



Sarah Jones, MPA, MS
Community Engagement



Pam Squires, MSW
Program Development