

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

22nd CONGRESSINAL DISTRICT

NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2004

HINCHEY DEMANDS STRAIGHT ANSWERS FROM FDA

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today sent a letter to U.S. Food and Drug Administration Acting Commissioner Lester Crawford, demanding documented answers to ten questions regarding FDA Chief Counsel Daniel Troy. Hinchey has raised concerns about Troy's unprecedented practice of assisting drug and medical device companies in civil suits.

"Daniel Troy has taken FDA in a radical new direction, seeking to protect drug companies instead of the public," said Hinchey. "In response to my inquiries about Mr. Troy's activities, the FDA has provided misleading information and outright lies. It's time the FDA began dealing with the facts."

Taking the counsel's office in a wholly unprecedented direction, Troy has repeatedly interceded in civil suits on behalf of drug and medical device manufacturers that were accused of harming patients who had used their products. Hinchey recently provided evidence that Troy worked in cooperation with the manufacturers in taking these actions, that he ignored serious conflicts of interests, and that the FDA sought to mislead Hinchey in his efforts to investigate the matter.

Last week an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2005 Agriculture Appropriations Bill offered by Hinchey, with the intent of taking \$500,000 away from the Food and Drug Administration's Chief Counsel's office, was accepted by the House of Representatives without opposition.

A copy of Hinchey's letter to Crawford is attached.