



Remarks made by NORD President and CEO Peter L. Saltonstall regarding the launch of new public-private partnership to encourage development of innovative medical devices.

**Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC
December 3, 2012**

The National Organization for Rare Disorders is pleased and proud to be a founding member of the Medical Device Innovation Consortium.

NORD represents the 30 million Americans with one or more of the 7,000 diseases that are considered rare. Only about 250 of these diseases have an FDA-approved treatment. Our highest priority is to help create and encourage an environment in which new treatments can be developed and made available to patients.

We hope and expect that this consortium will make an important contribution in addressing some of the strategic needs of the medical devices industry. A robust industry and an efficient and transparent FDA are absolutely essential to the development of innovative new treatments. Since we are on Capitol Hill, let me add that our FDA must also be properly funded if it is expected to support medical progress.

We at NORD are especially honored to be the first and only patient organization to be invited to be a founding member of the consortium. Over the past several years, we have sought to forge a productive relationship with the FDA and the medical devices industry because we believe that progress can be made only if all segments of the medical system work together. We hope that this public-private partnership will serve as a model for additional collaboration.

I can pledge today that our patient community will be an active participant in working collaboratively with the FDA, the industry and other consortium members to advance regulatory science. Again, thanks to those who have created and facilitated this consortium and we in the patient community look forward to working with you further.