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### Together at Last!

Here's an oddity: Jamie Love and I doing an op-ed together.

I have always respected Jamie, who now heads Knowledge Ecology International, but, in many policy battles over the years, we have been on opposite sides. I remember, for example, a debate at the Cato Institute on whether the feds should be going after Microsoft on anti-trust grounds. Jamie and Ralph Nader took the affirmative; I was on the other side, along with Robert Levy of Cato. Jamie and I have also sparred on matters of patents and copyrights.

But we are united in opposition to the attempt by a House and Senate committee to put a measure into the healthcare reform bill that would effectively kill any generic competition for biologics — medicines derived from living organisms.

If the Obama Administration truly cared about reducing healthcare costs, it would be fighting hard against the measures passed by the committees. The best way to hold down costs is the old-fashioned way: through competition. And, allowing generics to compete — after an extended period for the innovators of a drug to gain the monopoly profits they are clearly due — is the way to hold down costs. Plus, make Americans healthier.

See the piece [here](#) on the website of Roll Call, the congressional newspaper I edited long, long ago.

Let's see if the President talks about biologics in his speech tonight. The key is a five-year (or seven-year) exclusivity period. (Read the piece to find out what I mean.)

Tags: [biologics](#), [healthcare reform](#), [Jamie Love](#)

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