

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

May 2, 2004

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Dear Friends,

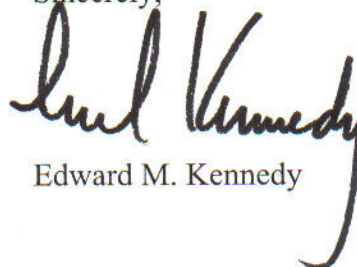
I am delighted to add my sincere greetings to you today as you gather for the Second International "RNAi-2004-Boston" meeting on "RNA interference: Biology to Drugs & Therapeutics." This dynamic event will gather some of the world's most accomplished scientists from academia and the biotech and pharmaceutical industries to discuss the importance of commercial applications of RNA interference to the development of new drugs and diagnostics in order to treat human diseases. The meeting will showcase the positive relationship existing between academicians and business leaders in the health care and biotech fields, and also strengthen the possibility of new collaborations and initiatives in the coming years.

The men and women attending this event have played a tremendous role in commercial applications of newly developed RNA interference, and as a result, new drugs have been developed to combat some of the world's worst medical problems, such as cancers, infectious diseases, and neurological and psychiatric diseases. The international community is fortunate to have individuals so dedicated to making the world a healthier place, and I hope all of you gathered here today take great pride in your many important achievements.

As someone who has always worked to improve the access and quality of health care in this country, I have a great deal of respect for the work you are all doing. Having this meeting in Massachusetts, and Waltham in particular, is very fitting given its close proximity to outstanding academic institutions and successful biotech and pharmaceutical companies. I thank you for dedicating your time to this great cause; I am truly honored to have been able to pass along this welcome to you all.

With my warmest regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward M. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Edward M. Kennedy