

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
March 21, 2012**

**ORDER GRANTING CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Targacept, Inc.

File No. 000-51173 - CF#28058

Targacept, Inc. submitted an application under Rule 24b-2 requesting an extension of a previous grant of confidential treatment for information it excluded from the Exhibits to a Form 10-K filed on March 22, 2007.

Based on representations by Targacept, Inc. that this information qualifies as confidential commercial or financial information under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), the Division of Corporation Finance has determined not to publicly disclose it. Accordingly, excluded information from the following exhibit will not be released to the public for the time period specified:

Exhibit 10.20 through March 22, 2022

For the Commission, by the Division of Corporation Finance, pursuant to delegated authority:

Pamela Howell
Special Counsel