

August 25, 1999

Sent to entire House Membership

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of more than a hundred health care provider and patient groups, we would like to bring your attention to a series of advertisements that have been placed to encourage Congress to pass a meaningful patient protection bill as soon as possible.

The advertising campaign "What Are HMOs So Afraid Of?" is running this week in the hometown newspapers of dozens of members of the House of Representatives. The American Medical Association, American Dental Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine, American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Patient Access Coalition are sponsoring the ad campaign. These groups comprise one of the broadest and strongest coalitions of health care providers and patients ever assembled.

We are eager to work with the Congress to pass a bipartisan, comprehensive patient protection package that guarantees fairness for America's patients. While we can never match the insurance industry's anti-patient war chest, we have something better on our side - the will of the public to see Congress enact patients' rights legislation and our commitment to be sure patients receive necessary care.

We look forward to working with you as soon as Congress returns to pass a patient protection bill of which Congress and the American people can be proud.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Ophthalmology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians—American Society of Internal Medicine
American Dental Association
American Medical Association
American Osteopathic Association
The Patient Access Coalition consisting of:

Allergy and Asthma Network-Mothers of Asthmatics, Inc.
The Alexandria Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, Inc.
American Academy of Allergy and Immunology
American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Dermatology

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pain Medicine
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association for Hand Surgery
American Association for Holistic Health
American Association for the Study of Headache
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Surgeons
American Association of Private Practice Psychiatrists
American College of Allergy and Immunology
American College of Cardiology
American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Nuclear Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American Diabetes Association
American EEG Society
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Surgeons
American Pain Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Sleep Disorders Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery
The American Society of Dermatopathology
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Surgery of the Hand

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology
American Society of Anesthesiology
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Clinical Pathologists
American Society of Colon Rectal Surgery
American Society of Dermatology
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Foot and Ankle Surgery
American Society of General Surgeons
American Society of Hand Therapists
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, Inc.
American Society of Transplantation
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
American Urological Association
Amputee Coalition of America
Arthritis Foundation
Arthroscopy Association of North America
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers
Association of Subspecialty Professors
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America
California Access to Specialty Care Coalition
California Congress of Dermatological Societies
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Diagenetics
Digestive Disease National Coalition
The Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Eye Bank Association of America
Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association
Gullain-Barre Syndrome Foundation
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Infectious Disease Society of America
Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association of Epilepsy Centers
National Association of Medical Directors of Respiratory Care

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization of Physicians Who Care
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Rehabilitation Hospital
National Right to Life Committee
North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology
Oregon Dermatology Society
Orthopaedic Trauma Association
Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society
The Paget Foundation for Paget's Disease of Bone and Related Disorders
Pain Care Coalition
Patient Advocates for Skin Disease Research
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America
Pediatrix Medical Group: Neonatology and Pediatric Intensive Care Specialist
Pituitary Tumor Network
Renal Physicians Association
Scoliosis Research Society
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation Inc.
The Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions
Society for Excellence in Eyecare
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Cardiovascular & Interventional Radiology
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Nuclear Medicine
Society of Surgical Oncology
Society of Thoracic Surgeons
The TMJ Associations, Ltd.
United Ostomy Association