



June 25, 2002

The Honorable Nancy Johnson
Chair, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson,

On behalf of the American College of Radiology, I would like to express the College's strong support for House passage of H.R. 4954, the "Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002." In addition to the Committee's providing a much needed six percent increase in Medicare physician payment over the next three years, the College would like to thank you for your support of the inclusion of section 517, "Carve Out for OPD PPS for Certain Diagnostic Mammography Services." This section will provide increased reimbursement for mammography services performed in the hospital.

As you know, access to timely mammography services has been threatened by the closing, over the past year, of nearly 500 facilities nationwide. It is a well-known fact that low reimbursement for these services has led to the majority of these closings. Section 517 will help stem these closings and allow women to continue to access this life-saving procedure in a timely fashion.

The College looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure access to quality radiological services such as mammography.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harvey L. Neiman, MD".

Harvey L. Neiman, M.D.
Chair, Board of Chancellors