



June 4, 2002

Honorable Bill Thomas
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), I am pleased to offer our support for your draft Medicare prescription drug package.

It is our understanding that in addition to the expanded benefits in prescription drugs for seniors, your legislation would postpone cuts in physician fees which also impact other healthcare professionals who bill under Medicare such as certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). Further, we understand that instead of the decrease of 15% over three years the legislation would increase payments approximately 6% or 2% per year. Should this be the result of the final package, the AANA would be strongly supportive of the legislation, assuming there were no other provisions in the bill which would negatively impact either the reimbursement or scope of practice of CRNAs.

We commend you for your strong leadership and look forward to working with you and your able staff on this and other important healthcare issues.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Chambers, CRNA, MHSA
President