



Mayo Foundation
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Michael B. Wood, M.D.
President
Chief Executive Officer

June 18, 2002

Representative Bill Thomas
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6348

Dear Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of Mayo Foundation I want to express our support for your efforts to bring needed reforms to the Medicare program. Mayo supports fundamental reform of the Medicare program, with a long-term goal of a Medicare model similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan. We also support incremental steps necessary to maintain the viability of the current program as we move toward our long-term goal. These steps include regulatory reforms and adequate reimbursement for providers.

The package you have proposed in the Ways and Means Committee includes many of these needed elements, including regulatory reforms to simplify the current program, and steps to correct flaws in the current reimbursement systems. In particular, the package addresses the impending reductions in physician reimbursement. The reductions required under current rules would devastate our ability to carry out our missions of patient care, research, and education. We also support additional incremental steps in the package to keep us moving toward the long-term goal of Medicare modernization.

We are happy to work with you and the Congress in support of these important steps on the path to Medicare reform.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael B. Wood".

Michael B. Wood, M.D.

MBW:bk