



RENAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Providers of Quality Dialysis
for the Nation's ESRD Community

June 17, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Renal Leadership Council (RLC) is appreciative of your leadership over the years in support of adequate reimbursement for dialysis providers to ensure access to quality care for ESRD Medicare beneficiaries.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that, despite being disappointed that no funds were available for a composite rate increase in 2003 in your proposed Medicare bill, the RLC will support this as it includes a provision for a 1.2% composite rate increase for 2004 without any offsets. If at some point later in the legislative process funds become available for 2003, the council hopes that you will consider including a 2003 composite rate increase for dialysis in your Medicare legislation.

Best Regards,

Kent Thiry
Chairman of the RLC
CEO, DaVita, Inc.

Larry Buckelew
CEO, Gambro Health Care

Sam A. Brooks
CEO, Renal Care Group, Inc.

Jerome Tannenbaum, MD.
CEO, National Nephrology Associates