

July 20, 2009

The Honorable Pete Stark
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National PACE Association wholeheartedly supports the objectives of H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009. We appreciate the enormous effort required to formulate and integrate the range of health care policies necessary to both preserve the effective components of our health care system and simultaneously remedy those considerable aspects of the system needing improvement. While it is impossible for us to comment specifically on all aspects of the legislation, we believe the proposed reforms as a whole would move our health care system in the right direction by expanding coverage to nearly all Americans as well as undertaking numerous initiatives to improve quality of care and control costs.

With respect to the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in particular, we are appreciative of the legislation's recognition of PACE as distinct from Medicare Advantage in regard to future payments and believe such treatment is essential to the continued viability of our comprehensive, fully integrated, provider-based organizations.

The improved care of many thousands of frail elderly Americans could not have occurred without your strong and continued support of PACE from its creation. On behalf of all of us, thanks again.

Sincerely yours,



Shawn M. Bloom
President and CEO