



*The Alliance to Improve*  

---

**M E D I C A R E**

---

June 17, 2003

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chair, Committee on Ways & Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1100 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

The Alliance to Improve Medicare (AIM) applauds your efforts to develop a Medicare modernization and prescription drug bill.

Your proposal represents a significant step toward improving the Medicare program and we are pleased that the draft bill includes efforts to modernize benefits and to help ensure the program's survival for future generations of beneficiaries. AIM supports your efforts to ensure more health care coverage options, better benefits - including prescription drug benefits for beneficiaries in both traditional fee-for-service and other, private plans - and access to innovative medical technology.

AIM believes all Medicare beneficiaries should have health care coverage options which include prescription drug coverage as part of a basic benefit package. The draft House bill would establish an array of market-based health care coverage choices to provide these benefits. AIM supports such market-based approaches to improve and strengthen Medicare and to provide access to a more comprehensive health care package. AIM also supports adequate payments to Medicare plans and providers to help ensure appropriate health care for senior citizens.

Our members look forward to working with you, Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Tauzin, your staff, and other members of the U.S. House of Representatives to further refine and ensure enactment this year of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

*AIM is a coalition of organizations representing seniors, doctors, hospitals, small and large businesses, medical researchers and innovators, insurance plans and providers and others dedicated to improving and strengthening Medicare for all Americans. AIM seeks to ensure that all senior citizens have more health care coverage choices, better benefits (including prescription drug coverage), and access to the latest in innovative medical practices and treatments.*

# **AIM COALITION MEMBERS**

AdvaMed - ADVANCED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION  
AETNA U. S. HEALTHCARE  
ALZHEIMER AID SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PREFERRED PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS  
AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL  
AMERICAN CLINICAL LABORATORY ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN MEDICAL GROUP ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
BELL SOUTH CORPORATION  
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ASSOCIATION  
CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE  
COMMUNICATING FOR AGRICULTURE & THE UNEMPLOYED  
COUNCIL FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE  
COUNCIL ON RADIONUCLIDES AND RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS  
THE ERISA INDUSTRY COMMITTEE  
FOOD MARKETING INSTITUTE  
HEALTH INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
HEALTHCARE DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
HISPANIC BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE  
KIDNEY CANCER ASSOCIATION  
MAYO FOUNDATION  
MEDICAL IMAGING CONTRAST AGENT ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH UNDERWRITERS  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS  
NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS  
PHARMACEUTICAL CARE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION  
PREMIER  
RETIRESAFE.ORG  
SENIORS COALITION  
60+ ASSOCIATION  
THIRD MILLENNIUM  
UNITED SENIORS ASSOCIATION  
US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VHA INC