

June 16, 2003

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

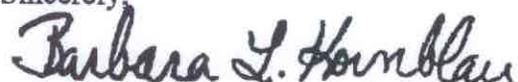
On behalf of the 35,000 members of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), I would like to commend and thank you for your leadership in including a one-year moratorium on the Medicare Part B outpatient occupational therapy cap in the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003, your bill to modernize and improve the Medicare program.

AOTA appreciates your recognition that the financial limitation on outpatient rehabilitation is a misguided attempt to constrain Medicare costs. Any payment limitation interposes government between a patient and a health care provider; it restricts patient choice, and could have the unintended consequence of exacerbating patient conditions causing Medicare cost increases. Your bill's inclusion of a one-year moratorium, with the requirement that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services address alternatives in a timely manner, is an important step that AOTA supports.

AOTA supports your bill and your efforts to assure Medicare beneficiaries and the Medicare program remain healthy.

We look forward to working with you as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Barbara Kornblau, JD, OT/L, FAOTA, DAAPM, ABDA, CCM  
President