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CORPORATE HEALTH CARE COALITION

June 13, 2003

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Cox Enterprises, Inc.
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Deere & Company
The Dow Chemical Company
DuPont Company
Eastman Kodak Company
Ford Motor Company
General Electric Company
General Motors Corporation
Halliburton Company
Hershey Foods Corporation
Honeywell
Raytheon
SBC Telecommunications
Texas Instruments
UPS
Verizon
3M

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
United States Capitol, Room H-232
Washington, DC 20515-6501

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We commend you, Chairman Thomas, Chairman Tauzin and other Members of Congress for your commitment to enact legislation that would improve Medicare, including a new prescription drug benefit. We believe this year represents the nation's best opportunity to achieve this long overdue goal, and we are committed to playing a constructive role in this effort.

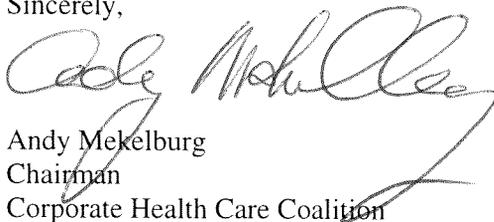
Prescription drug expenses are a major concern for seniors and for employers who sponsor retiree drug benefit plans. Today, retiree plans sponsored by employers provide about one-third of seniors' drug financing, although this share of the financing is gradually diminishing as employers struggle with rapidly accelerating health care costs.

As major employers who provide benefits for retirees, we applaud your efforts to ensure that the new Medicare drug benefit provides adequate incentives for employers to continue financing some portion of their retirees' prescription drug expenses.

Based upon the extensive and constructive discussions we have had with your staff, we appreciate your effort to provide employers and their retirees with new financial incentives, broad flexibility and options in providing retiree benefits. We share the goal of providing beneficiaries with better benefits, quality health care, financial incentives and choices among plan options with appropriate utilization.

We are committed to working with you to strengthen and improve Medicare, by enacting a drug benefit that provides the right balance of federal resources and administrative flexibility, which would encourage employers to continue providing retiree health benefits well in the future. We look forward to continuing to work with you on legislation that can be passed into law this year.

Sincerely,



Andy Mekelburg
Chairman
Corporate Health Care Coalition

cc: Chairman Thomas
Chairman Tauzin