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November 20, 2003

The Honorable William Thomas
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Chairman Thomas:

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) representing more than 18,000 neurologists and neuroscientists congratulates you and your colleagues for achieving bipartisan agreement on legislation that would provide Medicare prescription drug coverage to seniors and make other needed changes to the Medicare program. We are pleased to express our support for the agreement.

Based on the summary of the agreement that has been released, it appears to meet all of the AAN's major policy objectives. Therefore, the AAN believes Congress should pass the conference agreement. We look forward to the opportunity to review final legislative language and provide Congress with additional comments as necessary.

The bill represents a huge step forward in providing affordable drug coverage and maintaining access to physician services. The bill also provides a number of other provisions that protect patients including the continuation of a moratorium on caps for those in need of physical therapy and immediate coverage for those who self-inject needed medications.

The AAN thanks you for your efforts to improve the Medicare program for our nation's seniors and stands ready to help assist in securing final passage of this historic legislation.

Sincerely,


Sandra F. Olson, MD
President
American Academy of Neurology