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American Chiropractic Association

DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF AMERICA, NATURALLY.

November 20, 2003

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Majority Leader Frist and Speaker Hastert:

On behalf its members, and chiropractic patients across America, particularly those who are Medicare beneficiaries, the American Chiropractic Association extends sincere appreciation for your tireless efforts to pass Medicare modernization legislation to meet the needs of older and disabled Americans. Based on our understanding of the provisions included in the conference agreement on the Medicare Improvement and Modernization Act, including those relating to expanded access to chiropractic care, the ACA supports this legislation and is actively encouraging the nation's 60,000 doctors of chiropractic and 20 million chiropractic patients to support its passage.

The ACA has long contended that Medicare's arbitrary limit on chiropractic services is harmful to patients and costly to taxpayers. Accordingly, we are pleased that the conference report contains a provision to establish a demonstration project to test expanded access to chiropractic care for America's seniors in four sites around the country over a two-year period. The ACA congratulates Congress for taking this important step toward ending three decades of Medicare's discrimination against Doctors of Chiropractic and chiropractic patients.

The ACA also applauds your efforts to preserve adequate Medicare payment for chiropractic services under the physician fee schedule. As you know, doctors of chiropractic and other providers face a 4.5% cut in payment next year unless Congress intervenes. We understand that the conference report includes provisions that will provide 1.5% increases in payments for 2004 and 2005.

Again, on behalf of the membership of the ACA, and the patients they serve, I thank you for your efforts to improve Medicare and access to chiropractic care to our nation's older and disabled citizens.

Sincerely,


Jon Hymes
Vice President for Government Relations

cc: The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable William Thomas
The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin



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