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November 20, 2003

The Honorable Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House  
Office of the Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William Frist, M.D.  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Frist:

On behalf of the 38,000 members of the American Occupational Therapy Association, I want to express our support for the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (H.R. 1).

The American Occupational Therapy Association is the professional organization of occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students, advancing the use of occupational therapy to promote health, wellness and quality of life.

We applaud the inclusion of several provisions in H.R. 1 of great importance to our professionals and the clients we serve including:

**A moratorium on the implementation of caps on outpatient rehabilitation:** This provision of the Balanced Budget Act is universally understood to have negative effects on beneficiaries. AOTA appreciates the Congress' continuing support for preventing implementation to assure Medicare beneficiaries can access the care they need to function and achieve optimum health. We look forward to continuing to work with you on repeal or another acceptable solution to this problem in the future.

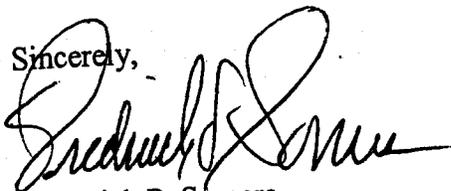
**The physician fee schedule increase:** As occupational therapy is paid for on the basis of the fee schedule the changes in H.R. 1 will assure appropriate and adequate payment for services and assure consumer access to critical occupational therapy services.

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**Avoidance of home health co-payments:** Occupational therapists are key providers of services in the home and support the Conference Committee's elimination of a proposed co-payment for beneficiaries.

AOTA expresses its appreciation for the difficult choices that have been made and thanks the Conference Committee for coming to agreements on these issues that will affect our profession and our patients. AOTA looks forward to working with the Congress to move forward with these and the other elements of H.R. 1.

Sincerely,



Frederick P. Somers  
Associate Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance  
Honorable William M. Thomas, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Honorable W. J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce