



**MEDICAL DEVICE
MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION**

Innovation Today for Better Health Care Tomorrow

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November 21, 2003

The Honorable William Thomas
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chairman Thomas:

The Medical Device Manufacturers Association applauds the efforts of Congress to pass legislation that will enhance the Medicare program by adding important new benefits and reforms. The conference agreement on H.R. 1 includes many provisions affecting the medical device industry. We support passage of the conference agreement.

This legislation would take important steps to promote the adoption of new technologies by providing faster, more adequate Medicare payment and supporting the costly clinical trial process for new devices. These provisions represent a valuable starting point in working to improve a Medicare environment that fosters innovation and promotes the adoption of new and improved technologies.

As this legislation is implemented, we look forward to working with the Administration and Congress to ensure that it promotes patient care as well as innovation. The well being of the entrepreneurial sector of the healthcare marketplace is vital to patient care and competition in the future.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our position, or if there is anything we can do to help pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Mark Leahey

Executive Director

Medical Device Manufacturers Association

cc: President George W. Bush
Secretary Tommy Thompson
Senator William Frist
Speaker J. Dennis Hastert
Senator Charles Grassley
Congressman William Tauzin