



November 18, 2003

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Frist:

On behalf of VHA Inc., I am writing to express support for H.R. 1, the "Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003," as agreed to in conference. VHA is a nationwide alliance of more than 2,200 community-owned hospitals and physicians. By participating in one of the nation's largest networks, our members have access to services and products designed to enhance clinical and financial performance.

We applaud your leadership on this landmark legislation, which will provide seniors with an affordable prescription drug benefit and more options in choosing their health care coverage. The bill also provides relief to our nation's hospitals, enabling them to better serve Medicare beneficiaries.

Again, thank you for your leadership in moving Congress forward on this important legislation. VHA is working to ensure its ultimate passage and enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward N. Goodman".

Edward N. Goodman  
Vice President, Public Policy