

June 14, 2004

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of America's health care providers, we strongly urge you to oppose any legislation that imposes caps or limits on Medicare and Medicaid spending.

Both the Medicare and Medicaid programs are essential in meeting the health care needs of our nation's citizens. In serving our seniors, the Medicare program should respond to the changing needs of the population, including advances in treatments, drugs and medical technologies. We must be able to continue to provide the high level of care that our seniors deserve. The Medicaid program is also a critical element in the health care system. The stability of Medicaid is vital to every American community, as the program provides for the well being of our most vulnerable populations.

We understand that budget enforcement legislation may be on the House schedule during the next two weeks. Again, we strongly urge you to protect health care for Americans by rejecting any budget enforcement measure that contains Medicare and Medicaid spending limits or caps.

Sincerely,

American College of Physicians
American Hospital Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Federation of American Hospitals
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
VHA Inc.