

THE  
CATHOLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES

May 18, 2006

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, facilities, and related organizations, I would like to thank you for sponsoring S. 2810 to waive the penalty for seniors who enroll in Medicare Part D during the next open enrollment period.



CHA has expressed concerns in the past regarding the May 15 deadline, and has asked Congress to waive any penalty for late enrollment, as well as allow enrollment to continue beyond May 15 through the next open enrollment period. We remain concerned that many seniors, particularly those with disabilities, have not been given enough time and accurate information about the myriad of choices offered under the Part D program to make the best choices possible prior to the current deadline. While we continue to urge you to extend the enrollment period, we also recognize S. 2810 as an important and essential measure in helping seniors avoid a lifetime penalty for late enrollment that many can hardly afford.

We appreciate your efforts to help seniors make timely and informed decisions about enrolling in Medicare Part D, and support this legislation as a compassionate effort to ensure that seniors in our nation receive the prescription drug coverage they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Rodgers'.

Michael Rodgers  
Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy

WASHINGTON OFFICE

1875 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20006-5409

Phone 202-296-3993  
Fax 202-296-3997

[www.chausa.org](http://www.chausa.org)