



May 11, 2010

Dear Representative:

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of national not-for-profit organizations representing nearly 60 million older Americans. We thank you for your historic votes to advance health care coverage for all Americans, including older adults. With your votes to pass the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010, the foundation for affordable, high-quality health care available to all Americans has been strengthened. These new laws offer important benefits for seniors.

They will strengthen Medicare's guaranteed benefits, phase-out Medicare's "doughnut hole" drug coverage gap for *all* beneficiaries, eliminate barriers to preventive care, extend the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund, shore up retiree health coverage, and crack down on insurance company abuses, such as denying affordable coverage because of age or health status. In addition, the new law will also help Americans remain in their own homes as they age by establishing a new program to help pay for long-term services and supports and enhancing Medicaid's role in providing this assistance.

We stand ready to work for the effective implementation of the new health care reform laws. Our organizations also plan to be an important resource for information on these laws and how they can improve health coverage for older adults.

Thank you again for your historic role in making health care reform a reality.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

Alliance for Aging Research

American Geriatrics Society

American Society on Aging

Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America

Catholic Health Association

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Easter Seals

Families USA

Geriatric Society of America

International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers

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of America, UAW
Medicare Rights Center
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers
National Association of Social Workers
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Council on Aging
National Indian Council on Aging
National Senior Citizens Law Center
NCCNHR: The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care
Volunteers of America
Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)