

America's Health Care Providers Say: "Vote NO on the House Budget Resolution" H. Con. Res. 95

[As reported by the House Budget Committee]

March 18, 2003

Dear Member of Congress:

Last week, the House Budget Committee approved a fiscal year 2004 (FY 2004) budget plan that potentially provides for drastic cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. On behalf of the organizations listed below, we strongly urge you to reject the FY 2004 Budget Resolution during floor consideration.

As reported by the House Budget committee, the FY 2004 blueprint requires every authorizing committee, except Armed Services and Intelligence, to make a 1 percent cut in spending from last year's (FY 2003) funding level. The reconciliation instructions to the House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce committees will result in a cut of \$260 billion and \$110 billion, respectively, over the next decade. For Medicare and Medicaid alone, this would result in drastic cuts over the 10-year life of the budget. While the cuts are not limited to Medicare and Medicaid, those programs would bear the brunt of these draconian reductions.

We find the House budget proposal unacceptable. The cuts in the House Budget Resolution are severe and would hurt hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, home health agencies, nurses, and other health care providers that, day in and day out, keep the promise of delivering quality health care to America's seniors. We believe the federal government has an obligation to provide responsible levels of funding to ensure patients can continue to receive the care they deserve. The FY 2004 House Budget Committee-passed blueprint fails to do that.

Once again, we urge you to reject the FY 2004 House Budget Resolution.

Sincerely,

American Association of Critical Care Nurses
American Association for Homecare
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Health Care Association
American Hospital Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Organizations of Nurse Executives
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers
Association
American Physical Therapy Association
Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses
Federation of American Hospitals
Healthcare Leadership Council
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association for Home Care and Hospice
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health
Systems
National Association of Urban Hospitals
Oncology Nursing Society
Premier
VHA Inc.