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June 10, 2002

Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
Honorable John D. Dingell  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

BY FAX: (202) 225-5288

Dear Congressmen Rangel and Dingell:

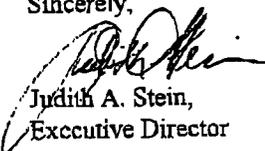
The Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization which provides education, advocacy, and legal assistance to help elders and people with disabilities obtain necessary healthcare. We are very pleased to endorse your Medicare prescription drug proposal.

Your proposal meets all of our principles for a meaningful, universal, affordable prescription drug benefit. In particular, we are pleased that, under your proposal:

- The drug benefit will be part of the Medicare program and administered in the same way that benefits under Medicare Parts A and B are administered.
- Beneficiaries will not be forced into an HMO in order to get prescription drug coverage.
- Beneficiaries will pay no more than 20% for any prescription, regardless of the amount they spend on drugs.
- Beneficiaries will have continuous coverage. They will not have to pay the full cost of any drugs after the deductible is met, regardless of the amount they spend on drugs.
- Beneficiaries will not be forced to pay higher co-payments for current Medicare benefits such as home health services in exchange for a Medicare drug benefit.
- Low-income Medicare beneficiaries will be protected, regardless of their age and where they live.

The Center for Medicare Advocacy appreciates the efforts you have taken to support the needs of elders and people with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to enact a Medicare prescription drug benefit that meets the needs of Medicare beneficiaries, the people the Medicare statute was designed to protect. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Judith A. Stein,  
Executive Director