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Preserve Social Security
and Medicare**

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June 12, 2002

The Honorable John Dingell
Rayburn House Office Building 2328
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I write in strong support of your Medicare prescription drug legislation that will provide much needed relief to seniors. Your bill contains all of the elements that seniors need in a comprehensive drug benefit under Medicare. Your bill is universal, voluntary, affordable, not means tested and most importantly, is a defined benefit, so that seniors can plan accordingly. Prescription drug prices are increasing over 17% per year (faster than inflation) and seniors are spending more on out-of-pocket drug expenditures than ever. The time is now to enact a drug benefit that will provide the Medicare beneficiary with meaningful assistance.

We are pleased that your plan would be available for seniors, no matter where they live. It provides seamless coverage. Our members have also expressed to us that a prescription drug benefit must be affordable.

We applaud you for your leadership in this area. We look forward to working with you to ensure enactment on this critical issue of prescription drug coverage for seniors.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kennelly
President