

American
Dental
Association

ADA

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July 18, 2001

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

Dear Congressman Dingell:

We write on behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the American Dental Association to urge you to vote for passage of the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood comprehensive patients' bill of rights. This legislation closely follows the ADA-supported bill that recently passed the Senate, and contains the entire range of substantive protections that our patients deserve. Accordingly, the ADA enthusiastically supports this legislation.

The Ganske-Dingell-Norwood bill is similar in many ways to the measure that the House passed with 275 votes in 1999. It differs significantly from that legislation, however, in that it increases the safeguards that protect employers from undue liability while reducing the likelihood of lawsuits altogether. The Republican-sponsored amendments to the Senate-passed bill went a long way towards answering every legitimate concern raised by the various employer groups that had lined up against it.

In addition, Ganske-Dingell-Norwood is the only bill currently before the House that:

- Allows all insured Americans the option of seeing the doctor of their choice;
- Bans improper financial incentives to reduce care;
- Requires plans to pay claims in a timely fashion; and
- Provides a timely, effective and appropriate means for patients to hold health plans accountable for inappropriate decisions to delay or deny necessary care that result in injury.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you oppose any rule that might prevent a fair vote on Ganske-Dingell-Norwood, and that you support and vote for only the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood bill among any other patient protection bills offered. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Dorothy J. Moss in the ADA Washington office at 202.898-2400.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Anderton, D.D.S., J.D., LL.M.
President



James B. Bramson, D.D.S.
Executive Director

RMA:JBB:bp