

# State Medical Society of Wisconsin

*Working together, advancing the health of the people of Wisconsin*



July 31, 2001

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
House Office Building  
2322 Rayburn  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

On behalf of the 9,000 physician members of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin (SMS), we thank you for your leadership on the Patients' Bill of Rights. The provisions of this legislation will ensure that patients and their physicians, rather than managed care plans, determine the best course of medical treatment. This critical bill will also ensure access to specialty care and will require a timely, binding and independent external appeals process. The SMS also strongly supports a patient protection bill that holds health plans and employers accountable when they make medical decisions that harm patients.

The SMS strongly supports a patient protection bill that holds health plans and employers accountable when they make medical decisions that harm patients. We believe the Senate bill, as significantly amended, accomplishes these goals while protecting most employers from liability.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you on this and other important health care issues in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond C. Zastrow".

Raymond C. Zastrow, MD  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Patchett, JD".

John E. Patchett, JD  
Executive Vice President

RCZ/JEP/mje

cc: Alice O'Connor