



**American
Medical
Rehabilitation
Providers
Association**

September 7, 1999

**Denny O'Malley - CEO - Craig Hospital
AMRPA Board Chairman**

The Honorable Charles Norwood
United States House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Norwood:

The American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA), a non-profit association representing rehabilitation hospitals, rehabilitation units in general hospitals, and outpatient rehabilitation facilities that provide medical rehabilitation services, is writing to express its endorsement of the *Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act* (H.R. 2723). We applaud you for your long-standing advocacy for meaningful patients' rights legislation and encourage you to continue your efforts throughout the 106th Congress until comprehensive legislation is enacted into law.

AMRPA strongly supports H.R. 2723 because it offers the greatest level of protection for patients with physical disabilities and chronic conditions who require medical rehabilitation services. This bill ensures that these individuals have appropriate access to specialty care. Access to specialty care is absolutely essential for this patient population. Your bill ensures that patients in need of comprehensive medical rehabilitation services have access to these quality services when they need them.

In addition to access to specialty care, AMRPA supports the *Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act* because it contains provisions such as continuity of care, point-of-service options, internal and external appeals procedures, and access to emergency care. **All** of these protections are vital to an effective Patients' Bill of Rights and are of the utmost importance to AMRPA, the medical rehabilitation community, and individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your leadership and long-standing commitment to managed care patient protection reforms. We look forward to working with you in the coming months to ensure enactment of a strong patient protection bill. If the association or I can ever be of help to you or your office, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Gans, M.D.

Chairman, Managed Care Committee