



American Public Health Association

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August 10, 1999

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

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, which represents more than 50,000 public health professionals around the country, I am writing to express our support for your new bi-partisan managed care reform bill, H.R.2723.

This bill will provide patients with real, enforceable assurances that they will receive the care they need and have purchased from managed care companies. If passed by Congress, this bill will:

- improve access to emergency services;
- allow more people to enter clinical trials;
- provide patients with a fair appeals process for denied claims;
- lift barriers to specialists; and
- hold plans responsible for the medical decisions they make.

Furthermore, the bill's broad bi-partisan cosponsorship – and announced support from President Clinton – makes it Congress' best chance to complete action on this important issue this year.

We understand that some within the managed care industry oppose any government regulation, but this issue is a very important one for consumers, health care providers, and the public health community. Your steadfast commitment to reform and your strong leadership throughout this debate are commendable. H.R.2723 is a significant and welcome step toward achieving new protections for managed care patients. We look forward to continuing work with you toward achievement of that mutual goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Levinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard A. Levinson, MD, DPA

Associate Executive Director, Programs and Policy

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