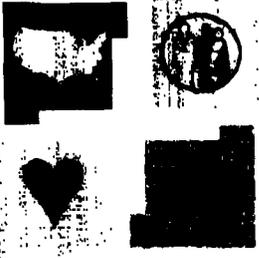


Neil Kahanovitz, M.D.
Founder

Terre McFillen Hall
Executive Director



**CENTER FOR
PATIENT ADVOCACY**

August 9, 1999

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

Dear Congressman Dingell:

The Center for Patient Advocacy is pleased to support the "Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999."

Since our founding in 1995, the Center for Patient Advocacy has been a leading supporter of strong, enforceable comprehensive managed care reform legislation. Every day the Center works with patients across the country who have experienced problems with managed care. We know first-hand the barriers to care that patients face, including limits on access to and coverage for specialty care and emergency room care, arbitrary medical decisions based on cost rather than a patient's specific medical needs, and the lack of a timely, independent and fair external appeals process to name a few. Most alarming, however, is that managed care plans -- not patients and their doctors -- continue to make medical decisions without being held legally accountable for their decisions that harm patients.

The Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act is a common-sense approach that addresses these problems. In this era where the pressure to reduce costs often comes at the expense of the patient, it is not only appropriate, but imperative that Congress act and pass legislation to protect patients from managed care abuses.

We commend your continued leadership in the managed care reform debate and your tireless efforts to secure a strong, enforceable and bipartisan solution to the problems patients across the country are facing. As we have continued to emphasize, patients are not calling on Congress to pass a Republican or Democrat bill. They are calling on Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that will truly provide them with needed protections and empower patients and their physicians with the decisions affecting their health care. And we believe that the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act will do just that.

Sincerely,



Terre McFillen-Hall
Executive Director

"Working for Quality Healthcare in America"

1350 Beverly Road • Suite 108 • McLean, Virginia 22101
(703) 748-0400 • Fax (703) 748-0402 • 1-800-846-7444
e-mail: patientadv@erols.com • Internet: www.patientadvocacy.org