



August 24, 1999

The Honorable John Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

The National Black Women's Health Project (NBWHP) is writing in support of the *Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act* (H.R. 2723). NBWHP is the only national organization solely dedicated to improving the health and well-being of America's 17.8 million Black women through wellness programs and services, information, and advocacy. We have been and continue to be a strong supporter of managed care reform. The proposed legislation offers significant protections for all Americans, and the specific implications for women and women of color are vitally important. Of great import is the inclusion of patient access to medical treatments and therapies including clinical trials. This is highly significant as women of color are often under-represented in clinical trials. In addition, the inclusion of access to all prescription drugs is crucial as women would have assured access to coverage for contraceptives.

There is an urgent need for consumer protections in the health care and insurance system, and we feel that this legislation is a progressive action in this regard. We appreciate any opportunities to work with you. If you have any further questions, please feel free to telephone our office. Shelia Clark, our Public Policy Associate, is our contact person. We look forward to the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Julia Scott
President & CEO

National Black Women's Health Project

Board of Directors
Bylye Y. Avery, Founder

Sharon Lovick Edwards, Chair
Peggy Ann Alford, Ph.D.
Lula Christopher
Angela Y. Davis
Fran Frazier
Shiriki Kumanyika, Ph.D.
Etienne R. LeGrand, Treasurer
Barbara J. Love, Ph.D.
C. Lynn McNair, Secretary
Deborah Williams-Muhammad
Munirah Olabisi
Sylvia L. Quinton, Esq., Vice-Chair
Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Ph.D.

Julia R. Scott, President/CEO



Combined Federal Campaign #0468

National Headquarters
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20003
Phone: (202) 543-9311
Fax: (202) 543-9743
E-mail: NBWHP@nbwhp.org