

PATIENT ACCESS COALITION

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September 7, 1999

The Honorable Charles Norwood
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Norwood:

The Patient Access Coalition wishes to express its endorsement for the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999, H.R. 2723, insofar as it contains the core patient protections on which the coalition was founded in 1994. For nearly five years the coalition has stood united in its goal to achieve the enactment of comprehensive legislation that would provide meaningful, basic protections to patients in managed care plans. Today, the coalition joins you in your bipartisan effort.

Specifically, the coalition supports H.R. 2723 on the basis that it would guarantee the following six protections to the millions of Americans who depend on managed care plans for their health care needs:

1. An out-of-network (point-of-service) option at the time of enrollment;
2. Timely access to specialty care;
3. A fair and expedited independent appeals process;
4. A consumer information checklist;
5. A ban on financial incentives that result in the withhold of care or a denial of a referral;
and
6. A ban on "gag clauses" which prohibit a provider from giving patients certain information, including treatment options.

The coalition is committed to winning passage this year of these important patient protections and will therefore work toward floor consideration and passage of comprehensive patient protection legislation. Again, the coalition thanks you for your dedication to this issue and looks forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Patient Access Coalition

Attachment

Allergy and Asthma Network-Mothers of
Asthmatics, Inc.
The Alexandria Graham Bell Association for
The Deaf, Inc.
American Academy of Allergy and Immunology
American Academy of Child & Adolescent
Psychiatry
American Academy of Facial Plastic and
Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and
Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pain Medicine
American Academy of Physical Medicine &
Rehabilitation
American Association for Hand Surgery
American Association for Holistic Health
American Association for the Study of Headache
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial
Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Foot and
Ankle Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Private Practice
Psychiatrists
American College of Allergy and Immunology
American College of Cardiology
American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Nuclear Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American Dental Association
American Diabetes Association
American EEG Society
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers
Association
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Surgeons

American Pain Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery
The American Society of Dermatopathology
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Surgery of the Hand
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology
and Oncology
American Society of Anesthesiology
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Dermatology
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Foot and Ankle Surgery
American Society of General Surgeons
American Society of Hand Therapists
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive
Surgeons, Inc.
American Society of Transplantation
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
American Urological Association
Amputee Coalition of America
Arthritis Foundation
Arthroscopy Association of North America
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology
Centers
Association of Subspecialty Professors
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America
California Access to Specialty Care Coalition
California Congress of Dermatological Societies
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Diagenetics
Digestive Disease National Coalition
The Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Eye Bank Association of America
Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association
Gullain-Barre Syndrome Foundation
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Infectious Disease Society of America
Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.

National Association for the Advancement of
Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association of Medical Directors of
Respiratory Care
National Committee to Preserve Social Security
and Medicare
National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization of Physicians Who Care
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Rehabilitation Hospital
North American Society of Pacing and
Electrophysiology
Oregon Dermatology Society
Orthopaedic Trauma Association
Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society
The Paget Foundation for Paget's Disease of Bone
and Related Disorders
Pain Care Coalition
Patient Advocates for Skin Disease Research
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America
Pediatrix Medical Group: Neonatology and Pediatric
Intensive Care Specialist
Physicians Who Care
Pituitary Tumor Network
Renal Physicians Association
Scoliosis Research Society
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation Inc.
The Society for Cardiac Angiography and
Interventions
Society for Excellence in Eyecare
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Cardiovascular & Interventional
Radiology
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Nuclear Medicine
Society of Thoracic Surgeons
The TMJ Associations, Ltd.
United Ostomy Association