



June 2, 2001

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The Honorable John Dingell
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

The Alliance for Children and Families writes in strong support of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001. We applaud your continued efforts to champion patients' rights and would like to see passage of a strong and meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights in this Congressional Session.

The Alliance for Children and Families is a nonprofit membership association representing more than 360 private, nonprofit child and family serving organizations that serve more than 5 million individuals annually in more than 2,000 communities. The Alliance advocates for children, families and community supportive policies through its Washington, D.C. Office of Public Policy and in collaboration with its member agency network.

The Alliance believes that access to quality health care by all American families is critical to ensure a healthy, productive population and a prosperous nation. We support your efforts to enact a Patients' Bill of Rights that would provide protection to all Americans in all health plans including the right to hold HMOs accountable when they make a decision that harms patients. The legislation that you have proposed provides essential safeguards to families by giving them the right to emergency room care, the right to see specialists and the right to a fair and timely appeals process.

The Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001 addresses and resolves the outstanding issues regarding patient care in America today. We commend you on your dedication to patients' rights and will work with you to ensure that the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001 is signed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Delgado Votaw".

Carmen Delgado Votaw
Senior Vice President of Public Policy