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March 20, 2001

The Honorable John D. Dingell
United States House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the Alpha 1 Association, I am writing to endorse the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001 (H.R. 526). This is strong, bipartisan patient protection legislation, which we believe can pass both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Many features of the bill are especially important to people that live with a chronic disease, like Alpha-1, across this country. First, the bill ensures that all Americans with private health insurance will receive protection. It puts medical decisions in the hands of health care providers, not insurance companies, and includes enforceable provisions to hold managed care plans accountable when their decisions to withhold or limit care result in injury or death. It also provides access to care and gives:

- Access to all prescription drugs, including ProLasta therapy, a lifesaving IV therapy for those affected by Alpha-1.
- Ensures standing access to specialists, including, when appropriate, specialists outside a plan's network.
- Ensures access to clinical trials that may save people's lives.

We are grateful for your continued leadership in putting patients before profits by sponsoring meaningful, enforceable legislation and look forward to working with you to enact H.R. 526.

Sincerely,

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

Nancye W. Buelow
President

cc: President George W. Bush

One Gene, One Vision, One Voice