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The Honorable John Dingell
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Dingell:

I am writing on behalf of the 68,000 members of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) to express its support for House Bill 526, the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001. We commend your commitment to the enactment of a comprehensive bill during this 107th Congress.

APTA has been a long-standing advocate for federal patient protection legislation. Fundamental reform must include the right of a patient to access the health care provider of their choice. Your legislation addresses this key element through its point-of-service, specialty care, and non-discrimination provisions. Also essential are the elimination of gag-clauses and the assurance that patients can expect a timely review of care that has been denied. APTA strongly supports enactment of legislation this Congress that will ensure peer review of services that have been denied a beneficiary of a health plan, for the purpose of both the internal and external appeals processes. It is our strong belief that such a review, conducted by health professionals with expertise in the delivery of the denied service, will ensure the most appropriate review of the denied treatment.

It is APTA's sincere hope that the introduction of your bill will lead to the enactment of meaningful patient protections for all Americans. Please contact Patrick Cooney (703/769-0020) or Justin Moore (703/706-3162) with any question you might have on APTA's position. Again, thank you for your efforts to enact meaningful patient protections.

Sincerely,



Nancy Garland, Esq.
Director, Government Affairs