



National  
COMMUNITY  
PHARMACISTS  
Association

*Formerly NARD, the  
National Association of  
Retail Druggists*

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June 18, 2001

The Honorable John Dingell  
2328 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the independent pharmacists throughout the country, I would like to reiterate our endorsement of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001, H.R.526, which you introduced earlier this year.

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) represents more than 30,000 independent pharmacies, where over 75,000 pharmacists dispense most of the nation's prescription drug and related services. Independent pharmacists serve 18 million persons daily.

Our members function in the market in a variety of forms. They do business as single stores ranging from apothecaries to full line high volume pharmacies; as independent chains (i.e. 100 pharmacies) and as franchises. Whatever the form of business entity, however, independent pharmacists are the decision makers for this wide variety of NCPA member companies.

We deeply appreciate your leadership and perseverance in continuing to seek congressional approval of real patient protection through a genuine bipartisan effort. Your bill contains the critical patient protections that consumers so desperately need. Especially paramount are the provisions on out-of-network care, prohibition of discriminatory practices against health care professionals and your provisions that require timely independent due process procedures and hold health plans accountable for their medical decisions.

We look forward to continued work with you to ensure the enactment of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act.

Warm Regards,

John M. Rector  
Senior Vice President Government Affairs  
and General Counsel