National Partnership for Women & Families

CHALLENGE 2·0·0·0

March 19, 2001

The Honorable Greg Ganske
United States House of Representatives
1108 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ganske:

On behalf of the National Partnership for Women & Families, 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 women and families 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:

- Ensures that women have direct access to ob-gyn services from the participating health care professional of their choice.
- Ensures that doctors and nurses can report quality problems without retaliation from HMOs, insurance companies, and hospitals.
- Ensures 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,

Judith L. Lichtman

Judith L. Lichtman
President

cc: President George W. Bush

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW / Suite 710 / Washington, DC 20009 / 202.986.2600 / Fax: 202.986.2539 / Web Site: http://www.nationalpartnership.org