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DAVID V. MARVENTANO, STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

March 29, 2001

Dear Colleague:

We know you share our desire to see the Medicare, Medicaid, and S-CHIP Programs serve health care consumers in a high-quality and accountable manner. All of us in Congress, over the last few years, have advanced health care measures which would ensure quality, cost-containment, accountability, effectiveness, and access. When these Congressional objectives are achieved, we will have better quality health care and the continued benefit of new drugs, medical technologies and other treatments, and the public accountability that is warranted and needed. Our efforts are important to ensure that American families have access to quality health care coverage and increased confidence in the reliability of our health care system.

On a bipartisan basis, the Energy and Commerce Committee will work to ensure that these goals are achieved. The undersigned may well have significant policy differences on many of these programs, but we all agree that this inquiry is not, and will not be, a back-door effort to undermine Federal health care programs.

During the last Congress, many of you wrote to express concerns with the administration of Federal healthcare programs. Indeed, one of the most widely attended Health Subcommittee hearings we held last Congress was on this topic. Clearly, your constituents are concerned about all aspects of the Federal government's handling of these programs. We want to fully understand and address those concerns. Sometimes the result will mean making sure that the management of these programs is improved. Other times we will need to explore additional Congressional action.

As we plan a review of HCFA's current operations, regulatory policies and infrastructure, we are asking you to send us examples and specific concerns and/or success stories you may have about HCFA and/or the Medicare, Medicaid and S-CHIP Programs. Additionally, as HCFA frequently coordinates with the Office of Inspector General and other divisions within the Department of Health and Human Services before it promulgates policy, we would appreciate your feedback about how well these other entities are performing their functions and working with the Agency.

To facilitate our effort, the Energy and Commerce Committee has established a website to track this information. The link is <http://commerce.house.gov:800/members/reform.htm>. Please log on and provide us with information that you believe will help us make the Agency more responsive to patients.

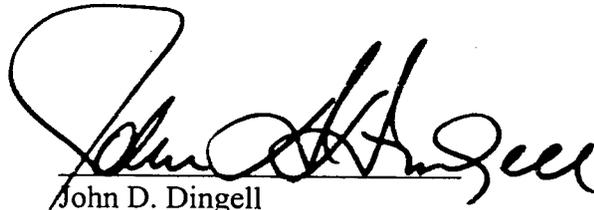
We look forward to working with you on this matter to ensure that your constituents receive the benefits of a modern, reliable health care system.

Please feel free to call us or our Committee staff if you have any questions or would like further information about this project. Thank you in advance for your interest.

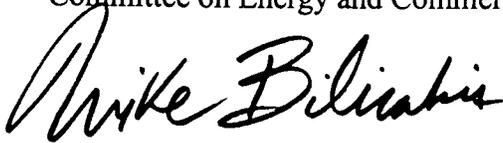
Sincerely,



W.J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce



John D. Dingell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Michael Bilirakis
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health



Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health



James Greenwood
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Peter Deutsch
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and
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