

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2003

**OPPOSE H.R. 5
THE "ANTI-PATIENTS BILL OF RIGHTS"**

Dear Colleague:

H.R. 5 **RESTRICTS** the rights of **LEGITIMATELY INJURED PATIENTS** in a way that would disproportionately harm women, seniors, low-income families and children.

H.R. 5 **RESTRICTS** the rights of **DOCTORS** and **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS** in favor of **HMO's, INSURANCE COMPANIES, PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES, and DEVICE MANUFACTURERS.**

H.R. 5 does **NOT ADDRESS** the issue of **FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS.**

H.R. 5 does **NOT PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE** to health care providers and communities in need. Malpractice insurance companies admit that H.R. 5 will not reduce premiums in the short-term and may not ever result in premium reductions for physicians and other health care providers.

SUPPORT THE CONYERS/DINGELL DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE

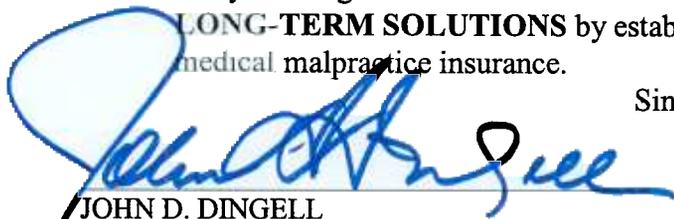
Conyers/Dingell will **WEED OUT FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS.** It will not restrict the rights of legitimate claims.

Conyers/Dingell will **REPEAL THE FEDERAL ANTI-TRUST EXEMPTION** for medical malpractice insurance companies. This will increase competition and reduce premiums that health care providers must pay to insurance companies.

Conyers/Dingell will **PROVIDE TARGETED ASSISTANCE** directly to physicians, hospitals and communities in need. Grants administered through the Department of Health and Human Services will enable physicians to continue practicing in crisis areas. Physicians from the National Health Service Corps will keep trauma centers open that have lost, or are in danger of losing, specialists because of rising insurance rates.

Conyers/Dingell will **EXAMINE THE WHOLE PROBLEM** and **RECOMMEND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS** by establishing an independent advisory commission for medical malpractice insurance.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE



JOHN CONYERS, JR.
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY