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January 11, 2007

Representative John Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Re: Support for the Medicare Prescription Drug Price  
Negotiation Act of 2007 (HR 4)

Dear Representative Dingell:

The National Health Law Program commends you for introducing the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007, which would require the Secretary of HHS to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies in an effort to achieve the lowest possible prescription drug prices for the senior citizens of this country who participate in Part D of Medicare.

The provisions of H.R. 4 exhibit the utmost common sense. While those who would do nothing debate whether the provisions of this bill will lower Part D prices as much as we all might wish, no one has suggested that having the Secretary bring to bear the power of the federal government will in any way hurt those who rely upon Medicare for the medicines necessary to preserve the quality of their lives. And NHeLP, like you, believes strongly that if the Secretary employs this authority in good faith, Medicare beneficiaries throughout the land will indeed enjoy lower drug prices. Given that the majority of these beneficiaries live on fixed incomes, the value to them of this bill cannot be overstated.

As a result, NHeLP applauds your willingness to sponsor this important legislation and we are pleased to offer it our whole-hearted support.

Sincerely,

*Steven A. Hitov*

Steve Hitov  
Managing Attorney

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