



# American Public Health Association

*Working for a Healthier World*

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May 4, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world, dedicated to protecting all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and assuring community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States, I write in support of H.R. 2034, the Medicare for All Act.

For over 50 years, the American Public Health Association (APHA) has vigorously supported and promoted the concept of universal health care throughout the United States. APHA is committed to the policy that all individuals in the United States deserve unencumbered access to quality health care services, regardless of race, gender, financial status and/or geographic location.

Since its inception, the Medicare program has been successful in providing senior citizens and other covered populations with a high level of quality health care. Due to its successes, Medicare is an excellent program from which to model a national health program to cover all Americans. APHA supports the Medicare for All Act, as it would expand access to health coverage of the United States by:

- Providing coverage for all individuals who are citizens of or are lawfully present in the United States, regardless of race, gender, geographic location or health status.
- Providing comprehensive benefits including health maintenance, preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative services for all types of illnesses and health conditions. APHA is pleased that H.R. 2034 builds upon the current Medicare benefits package by including coverage of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services and those preventive services recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.
- Ensuring that financial barriers are eliminated so that all individuals eligible for coverage can receive it. Ultimately, APHA believes that financing of such coverage should depend on an individual's ability to pay. This includes financing by a combination of federal social insurance and general tax revenues

Thank you for your attention to and leadership on this important public health issue. APHA believes this legislation is one more step towards achieving the important goal of providing health care coverage to all Americans. We look forward to working with you on this and other efforts to expand health coverage this Congress. If you have questions, or for additional information, please contact me or have your staff contact Courtney Perlino, at (202) 777-2436 or [courtney.perlino@apha.org](mailto:courtney.perlino@apha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (Emeritus)  
Executive Director