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SANDRA FELDMAN
PRESIDENT

EDWARD J. McELROY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

April 14, 1998

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
U. S. Senate
c/o Mr. David Nexon, Health Policy Director
Committee on Labor and Human Resources
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

I want to thank you for the inclusion in H.R. 3605 of a modest but important provision that offers some protection to licensed health care professionals such as nurses and medical technicians who report on inadequate care and dangerous practices in the health care system.

The provision is based on a New Jersey whistle blower statute that was enacted through the determined effort of our Health Professionals and Allied Employees.

The American Federation of Teachers stands ready to work with you to see the enactment of a viable "Patients' Bill of Rights" in this Congress. The ability of trained and licensed professionals to speak freely on the adequacy of health care is an essential component of a high quality health care system.

Your leadership in this most important area is appreciated by America's working families and the American Federation of Teachers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandra Feldman' in a cursive script.

Sandra Feldman
President

SF:cmw (KEGEPDIN)
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