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FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

7 July 1998

Representative John Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

I am writing to express the support of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for the Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 1998 (HR 3605).

FCNL believes that the primary goal of a health care system should be to maintain and improve the health of the population. However, the most fundamental obligation in many managed care organizations is *not* providing good health care to patients but rather providing a cost-effective service to businesses. In order to achieve cost savings, some managed care plans have adopted practices which, for many in the general public, have eroded confidence in physicians.

The Patients' Bill of Rights Act is an important measure to address problems which have arisen over the past ten years as managed care has expanded dramatically so that it now provides coverage to 75% of all persons with private health insurance. FCNL is pleased that this bill includes provisions that support what are viewed traditionally and legally as patient rights as well as provisions which fall under the heading of consumer protections.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation appreciates your efforts to ensure that the health care system is fair and responsive to consumer's needs and that the strong relationship between patients and their health care professionals, so essential to good care, is not eroded. We are pleased to support these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Florence C. Kimball".

Florence C. Kimball
Legislative Education Secretary

Margaret R. Hummon: Clerk
Joe Volk: Executive Secretary
Kathy Guthrie: Field Program Coordinator

Binford Farlow: Assistant Clerk
Florence C. Kimball: Legislative Education Secretary
Portia Wenze-Danley: Director for Administration
Arthur Meyer Boyd: Development and Program Interpretation Secretary

Edward F. Snyder: Executive Secretary Emeritus
Ned Stowe: Legislative Secretary
Mike Cullinan: Manager of Accounts