



National Medical Association

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Mohammad N. Akhter, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

26 July 2007

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel:

It is with hopeful anticipation that we write to congratulate you on the The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (CHAMP), H.R. 3162. Today's markup in your Committee may be the most pivotal day in this legislative session with regard to the health and welfare of all Americans.

We are particularly enthusiastic about the following provisions:

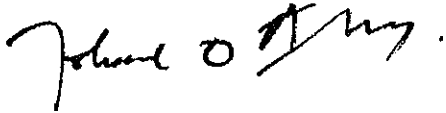
- The potential for enrolling the six million children who are now eligible for CHIP, but remain uninsured for want of effective outreach;
- The funding of dental and mental health benefits under CHIP;
- The creation of Children's Access and Payment Equity Commission (CAPE), the CHIP equivalent of MedPAC;
- Section 422's focus on developing HEDIS measures to assess health disparities;
- The gradual replacement of the SGR, to ensure positive updates and an eventual fix to this intractable payment problem under Medicare;
- The preventive approach to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and the provisions that help us understand how well we're doing to prevent this scourge, the burden of which is disproportionately borne by the vulnerable populations our members serve.

All things considered, the CHAMP Act represents a great step forward in our quest for providing healthcare of the highest quality for all Americans. We are already on record as endorsing the proposed mechanisms for funding H.R. 3162, namely an increase in the

federal tobacco excise tax, and establishing financial neutrality for Medicare Advantage plans.

We congratulate you on your service to our nation. We stand ready to support your efforts whatever way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mohammad N. Akhter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a distinct "N".

Mohammad N. Akhter, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director