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OSTEOPATHIC

September 1, 1999

The Honorable John D. Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

The American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFPP) represents the nation's 27,000 osteopathic family physicians. As President, I am pleased to let you know that the ACOFP strongly supports your bill, the "Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999" (H.R. 2723).

Over the last two decades, managed care has become increasingly less interested in delivering quality healthcare to patients. Instead, the focus has shifted to delivering economically feasible healthcare. It is time to return the focus of healthcare to our patients and away from profits. Employers and patients deserve to receive the care they are promised and the services for which they pay. We believe that H.R. 2723 is the bipartisan legislation that will help bring quality back into healthcare and allow osteopathic family physicians to care for patients in accordance with the high principles guiding our profession. These include:

- physicians being allowed to determine medical necessity;
- health plans held accountable for their actions;
- a fair and independent appeals process available to patients, and
- protections which apply to all Americans.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. We are encouraged by the broad bipartisan support your legislation has received. The ACOFP pledges to work with you and all Members of Congress to ensure swift enactment of H.R. 2723. Please feel free to contact Shawn Martin, ACOFP Director of Government Affairs, in our Washington office at 202-414-0147 with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. McNerney, D.O., FACOFF
President, American College of
Osteopathic Family Physicians

cc: ACOFP President-Elect
ACOFPP Executive Director
AOA Chairman, Council on Federal Health Programs
AOA Director, Department of Government Relations