



September 15, 1999

The Honorable Charles Norwood  
US House of Representatives  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Norwood:

For the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), I want to commend you and Representative Dingell for your efforts to find a bipartisan solution to the growing need for managed care reform. In developing H.R.2723, the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Act, you have demonstrated your commitment to assuring that children and adults with disabilities and their families get appropriate health care when it is needed.

While we admit a preference for far stronger legislation, we believe H.R.2723 represents the best chance for passing managed care reform during the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress. Indeed, H.R.2723 has many provisions that will be tremendously helpful to people with disabilities, such as access to specialty care, assurances for continuity of care when a patient's physician leaves a health plan, and access to medically indicated, non-formulary prescription drugs. Although PVA would like to see a strong definition of medical necessity included in a reform bill, the independent external appeals process of H.R.2723 nevertheless puts medical decisions in the hands of health care professionals and not insurance companies. That, too, is commendable. Another laudable piece of the bill is the change in the ERISA preemption that will broaden the scope of protections to many more Americans.

Again, for the many members of PVA and their families who belong to managed care health plans, I thank you for pursuing this initiative. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to assure its passage during this Congress.

Sincerely,

Homer S. Townsend, Jr.  
National President

Chartered by the Congress of the United States

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