

January 14, 2011

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I urge you to oppose legislation that would repeal the *Affordable Care Act* health care reform law.

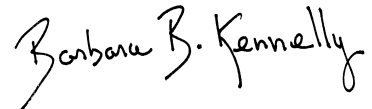
We were alarmed to hear that a floor vote to repeal the new health reform law will be one of the House's first items for business in the 112th Congress. Overturning the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) would threaten the future of the Medicare program and result in drastic benefit cuts for beneficiaries:

- **Medicare Trust Fund solvency would be shortened by 12 years.** Estimates by the Medicare Actuary show that Medicare's solvency would be reduced by 12 years if the ACA is repealed.
- **Seniors would face thousands of dollars in additional prescription drug costs.** The ACA fixed a major flaw of the Medicare Part D program, the "donut hole" coverage gap, which the law phases out by 2020. Undoing the donut hole fix would result in beneficiaries paying 100 percent of the costs of their medications – up to \$3,607 in 2011 – when their total drug spending is between \$2,840 - \$6,448. The average beneficiary in the doughnut hole would lose \$700 this year if the 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs and the discount on generics are repealed.
- **Full coverage for preventive services would be curtailed.** The health reform law eliminated Medicare out-of-pocket payments for preventive services such as screenings for cancer, cardiovascular problems, and diabetes, beginning in 2011. To again impose these costs on beneficiaries would remove the incentive to seek early diagnosis and treatment for serious diseases which place the largest burden on the Medicare program.
- **Beneficiary protections in Medicare Advantage would be eliminated.** The ACA prohibits Medicare Advantage plans from charging seniors more than traditional Medicare for crucial services such as chemotherapy, skilled nursing facility care, and renal dialysis. Beneficiaries would again face substantially higher costs if this protection is removed.

- **Efforts to reduce fraud and abuse would be rolled back.** Overturning the ACA will drain \$350 million from anti-fraud activities, and the government would be stripped of important authority to screen and approve health care providers for the Medicare program.

We urge you to vote against legislation that would repeal the vital beneficiary improvements and protections provided by the *Affordable Care Act* and shorten the lifespan of the Trust Fund. We look forward to working with you on legislation that will protect the Medicare program and improve health care services for seniors.

With many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara B. Kennelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara B. Kennelly
President and CEO