

**National  
Committee to  
Preserve  
Social Security  
and Medicare**



**Barbara B. Kennelly  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer**

April 23, 2007

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I am writing to endorse your legislation, the *Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act (CLASS Act)*.

The lack of comprehensive long term care coverage in this country has forced many seniors to spend-down their life savings, rely on friends and family members for needed assistance, and turn to public programs that were not designed to adequately address long-term care needs. As our population ages and our life expectancy rises, the demand for long term care services will grow rapidly over the next several decades. In fact, the number of people age 85 and older—those most likely to use long term care—is projected to increase five-fold from approximately 4 million in 2000 to 21 million in 2050.

We understand that your legislation would create a nationwide insurance program financed through voluntary payroll deductions to provide long-term care services and supports. Individuals would become eligible for the CLASS benefit after paying monthly premiums for at least five years and by demonstrating that they have at least two limitations in performing activities of daily living or an equivalent cognitive impairment. The CLASS benefit would provide cash assistance that could be used to purchase a variety of long term care services and supports.

We applaud you for introducing this legislation and for all of your efforts to address our nation's long term care challenges. Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of America's seniors.

Cordially,

Barbara B. Kennelly  
President and CEO