

National Committee to
Preserve Social Security
and Medicare



Barbara B. Kennelly
President &
Chief Executive Officer

August 30, 2007

The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of over 3 million members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I am writing to urge the Senate to adopt the Medicare improvements contained in H.R. 3162, the *Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (CHAMP Act)*. The House-passed CHAMP Act achieves the dual legislative priorities of improving health insurance coverage for uninsured children and enhancing the Medicare program's benefits and financing.

We strongly support the CHAMP Act because it includes substantial beneficiary enhancements such as improved preventive benefits, mental health benefits, assistance for low-income beneficiaries, and consumer protections. In addition, by curtailing large overpayments to insurance companies, it reduces Part B premiums for all beneficiaries and improves the ability of traditional Medicare to provide health coverage for retired and disabled beneficiaries today and in the future. Just as importantly, curtailing overpayments to insurers restores private Medicare plans to their original purpose – as private alternatives competing on a level playing field to provide choices to beneficiaries and more flexibility to the Medicare program.

We applaud you for passing the *Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007*, which will provide millions of low-income children with health insurance coverage. We also strongly encourage you to simultaneously support seniors by urging the Senate leadership and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee to include the Medicare provisions from the CHAMP Act in the CHIP reauthorization conference report. This will demonstrate to seniors that Congress is fully committed to strengthening and preserving the Medicare program for generations to come.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara B. Kennelly".

Barbara B. Kennelly
President and CEO