

National Committee to  
Preserve Social Security  
and Medicare



Barbara B. Kennelly  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

June 27, 2007

The Honorable Fortney H. "Pete" Stark  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Stark:

On behalf of the four million members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I am writing to endorse your legislation, the *Medicare Advantage Truth in Advertising Act of 2007*.

We understand your legislation would require that Medicare Advantage (MA) plans cover all of Medicare's benefits at no greater cost to their enrollees than beneficiaries in traditional Medicare are charged. Your legislation would prohibit MA plans from charging a copayment or coinsurance where Medicare has none. Preventing private plans from imposing greater cost-sharing requirements than traditional Medicare would better protect beneficiaries from high and unexpected out-of-pocket costs.

Despite receiving substantial overpayments, private MA plans can provide inferior health coverage compared to traditional Medicare. While MA plans are required to cover everything that Medicare covers, they do not have to cover every benefit in the same way. For example, private plans may create financial barriers to care by imposing higher cost-sharing requirements for benefits that protect the sickest and most vulnerable beneficiaries. These include home health services, hospitalization, skilled nursing facilities, inpatient mental health services, Part B drugs, and durable medical equipment.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of our nation's seniors.

Cordially,

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