



May 18, 2012

The Honorable Bernard Sanders, Chairman  
Retirement and Aging Subcommittee  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I am writing to thank you for introducing the *Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012*, which lays out a plan for combating the oral health crisis in America.

The National Committee is particularly supportive of the provisions in the *Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012* which would add a dental benefit to the Medicare program. It is unfortunate that under current law routine dental services are excluded from Medicare coverage even though these services are very important for the health of beneficiaries. Out-of-pocket spending for dental care is a great burden for many Medicare beneficiaries, especially since they are also paying for other services not covered by Medicare, such as eyeglasses and hearing aids, as well as cost sharing for Medicare-covered services.

Thank you for your leadership in expanding oral health care for all Americans through extended coverage, workforce training, education and research programs. We look forward to working with you on your comprehensive approach and, more specifically, to provide Medicare beneficiaries with coverage for dental care which is so important for their overall health.

Sincerely,

Max Richtman  
President & CEO