



May 6, 2008

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Medicare Health Support Organizations

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

Chronic disease is the number one cause of deaths and accounts for 75% of all healthcare expenditures in the United States. Part of the solution is already available – a program, called Medicare Health Support (MHS).

Since its inception, MHS and the participating Medicare Health Support Organizations (MHSOs) has supported more than 150,000 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries with chronic conditions. This groundbreaking program provides chronic care management to Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries. Such services have improved patients' lives and helped cut costs for those in Medicaid and Medicare Advantage plans.

I was disappointed to learn that the federal government is suspending this service, despite its many successes. Suspending, or worse, terminating, the MHS program will not only hurt America's seniors but also continue erode the quality of the Medicare fee-for-service program. I urge you to weigh this when considering future Medicare legislation that Congress advances this year.

Sincerely,

Martha Roherty
Executive Director

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