

National Senior Citizens Law Center



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November 6, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Senior Citizens Law Center, an organization committed to advocating on behalf of low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities, I write to you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives to convey our strong support for the manager's amendment to H.R. 3962, *Affordable Health Care for America Act*.

We believe that your leadership team and the leadership of the Ways and Means Committee, Energy and Commerce Committee, and Education and Labor Committee have succeeded in creating legislation that will make changes to the Medicare, Medicaid, and other long-term supports and services programs that will benefit millions of older beneficiaries and strengthen the future of these programs.

The work that has been done toward health care reform during this Congress has led to many substantial beneficiary improvements and protections that are very important to low-income older adults and their families. For example, low-income beneficiaries will benefit from increases in resource limits for the Medicare Savings Programs, the extension of the Qualified Individual program and the elimination of Part D cost sharing for individuals receiving Medicaid covered skilled care at home.

Low-income beneficiaries will also share in the benefit of various other improvements to the Medicare program. For example, creating a demonstration project for reimbursement for culturally and linguistically appropriate services, extending the solvency of the Medicare trust fund, improvements in the delivery system through better coordinated care for those with multiple chronic conditions, protection for Medicare Advantage plan beneficiaries, and improvements in preventive screenings and services make this legislation a significant step forward for older adults as well as those who lack insurance coverage.

Provisions such as those that will make prescription drugs more affordable by closing the doughnut hole over time in the Part D prescription drug program, provide discounts on certain drugs when beneficiaries reach the doughnut hole, and allow the Medicare program to negotiate drug prices on behalf of beneficiaries will positively impact the lives of millions of older adults who currently struggle to pay for their prescription drugs.

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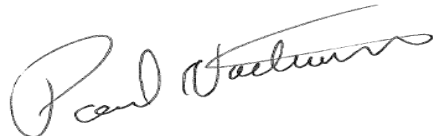
NSCLC also applauds your efforts to address the need for reforms in the long-term care system. The CLASS Act provisions, which create a new fiscally sound long-term care insurance option for all working Americans, improved support for family caregivers, and provisions that address quality problems in long-term care facilities are all important improvements on the currently broken system.”

We also support your efforts to rein in costs through eliminating wasteful spending. We do not believe that this bill cuts Medicare. It strives to pay providers appropriately for services and rewards high-quality care.

NSCLC supports H.R. 3962, the *Affordable Health Care for America Act*, and we urge all members of the U.S. House of Representatives to support the manager's amendment to this legislation when it reaches the House floor.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and for all that you have done to make this historic moment possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Nathanson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paul Nathanson
Executive Director