

Raise the Cap Coalition

May 22, 2009

Honorable Max Baucus Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

RE: "Expanding Health Care Coverage: Proposals to Provide Affordable Coverage to All Americans"

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

We sincerely appreciate your efforts to reform our healthcare system so that there will be adequate, affordable health care for all Americans, and would like to take this opportunity to provide requested feedback on your May 14, 2009 options paper entitled, "Expanding Health Care Coverage: Proposals to Provide Affordable Coverage to All Americans."

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and millions of Americans with chronic diseases and conditions, we want to thank you for including a proposal to eliminate lifetime and annual limitations on benefits. Our organizations and our members are committed to working with you and your colleagues to ensure that this option is part of the final reform package.

Our coalition has been working with Senators Dorgan and Snowe on S. 442, the Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act, legislation which would set minimum lifetime caps on private insurance at \$10 million. Your proposal to eliminate caps altogether furthers this policy. Individuals with chronic diseases and disorders must not be impeded in accessing necessary health care nor should they be impoverished with unreasonable lifetime or annual limits on benefits and unreasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

We wholeheartedly support you in this effort. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Alexion Pharmaceuticals

Alpha-1 Advocacy Alliance

Alpha-1 Association

Alpha-1 Foundation

American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

American Pain Foundation

Autism Society of America

Baxter Bioscience

Bayer HealthCare

Brain Injury Association of America

Breast Cancer Network of Strength

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

Committee of Ten Thousand

Cooley's Anemia Foundation

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America

CSL Behring

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

Factor Foundation of America

Grifols, Inc

Hemophilia Federation of America

Hepatitis Foundation International

Huntington's Disease Society of America

Immune Deficiency Foundation

Kids With Heart National Association for Children's Heart Disorders, Inc.

Mended Little Hearts

National Alopecia Areata Foundation

National Gaucher Foundation

National Health Council

National Hemophilia Foundation

National Marfan Foundation

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Organization for Rare Disorders

National Patient Advocate Foundation

Patient Services Incorporated

Pediatric Stroke Network, Inc.

Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Scleroderma Foundation

Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation

Talecris Biotherapeutics, Inc.