Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dick Gephardt
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders:

We write to urge you to support legislation to ensure continued access to quality care for the Medicare beneficiaries who need 24-hour skilled nursing care. Unless Congress acts this year, Medicare funding will be cut by 10 percent, amounting to nearly $35 per patient per day and, if implemented, will undermine quality, limit access to care and threaten caregiver job security.

In 1999 and 2000, Congress temporarily restored some of the cuts resulting from the flawed implementation of the Balanced Budget Act. These temporary add-ons have helped restore beneficiary access to SNF care, improve quality and revive capital markets and credit availability. As part of any Medicare package considered this year by Congress, we must ensure that these cuts do not occur and current levels of Medicare funding for beneficiaries needing skilled nursing care are maintained.

We look forward to working with you and the Administration to ensure continued quality care for our nation's seniors.

Sincerely,

Capito (R-WV)
Dicks (D-WA)
Larsen (D-WA)
Rivers (D-MI)
Kilpatrick (D-MI)
Hilliard (D-AL)
Walsh (R-NY)
Berry (D-AL)
Baldacci (D-ME)
Meehan (D-MA)
Lofgren (D-CA)
Peterson (D-MN)
Slaughter (D-NY)
Waters (D-CA)
Bereuter (R-NE)
Payne (D-NJ)
Reyes (D-TX)
Schrock (R-VA)
Simmons (R-CT)
Cantor (R-VA)
Filner (D-CA)
Snyder (D-AR)
Green (R-WI)
Ford (D-TN)
Oberstar (D-MN)
Davis (R-VA)
Ackerman (D-NY)
Kleczka (D-WI)
Hooley (D-OR)
Nadler (D-NY)
Sununu (R-NH)
Markey (D-MA)
Deutsch (D-FL)
Levin (D-MI)
Hoeffel (D-PA)
Shows (D-MS)
Allen (D-ME)
Eshoo (D-CA)
Gonzalez (D-TX)
Hart (R-PA)
Pomeroy (D-ND)
Strickland (D-OH)
Brady (D-PA)
Inslee (D-WA)
Luther (D-MN)
Bishop (D-GA)
McGovern (D-MA)
McKinney (D-GA)
Frank (D-MA)
Lynch (D-MA)
Pickering (R-MS)
Costello (D-IL)
Woolsey (D-CA)
Bonoir (D-MI)
Towns (D-NY)
Boehlert (R-NY)
Baldacci (D-ME)
Christensen (D-VI)
Radanovich (R-CA)
Hayes (R-NC)
Clayton (D-NC)
Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Thompson (D-CA)
Baldwin (D-WI)
Terry (R-NE)
Pitts (R-PA)
Hinchey (D-NY)
Murtha (D-PA)
Coyne (D-PA)
Biggert (R-IL)
Watson (D-CA)
Honda (D-CA)
Leach (R-IA)
Pence (R-IN)
DeLauro (D-CT)
Kucinich (D-OH)
Neal (D-MA)
Whitfield (R-KY)
Gordon (D-TN)
Tanner (D-TN)
Abercrombie (D-HI)
Kildee (D-MI)
Smith (D-WA)
Farr (D-CA)
Capps (D-CA)
Hobson (R-OH)
McNulty (D-NY)
Watt (D-NC)
McCarthy (D-NY)
Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Paul (R-TX)
McCollum (D-MN)
Ross (D-AR)
Matsui (D-CA)
Engel (D-NY)
Israel (D-NY)
Napolitano (D-CA)
Maloney (D-CT)
Baca (D-CA)
McDermott (D-WA)
Goode (I-VA)
Northup (R-KY)
Etheridge (D-NC)
Blagojevich (D-IL)
Sandlin (D-TX)
Sanders (I-VT)
Hoeffel (D-PA)
Larson (D-CT)
Lipinksi (D-IL)
Wilson (R-SC)
Hall (D-TX)
Wicker (R-MS)
Wynn (D-MD)
Barcia (D-MI)
Stenholm (D-TX)
Olver (D-MA)
DeFazio (D-OR)
Grucci (R-NY)
Raball (D-WV)
Smith (R-NJ)
Riley (R-AL)
Langevin (D-RI)
Schiff (D-CA)
Barrett (D-WI)
Mink (D-HI)
Capuano (D-MA)
Becerra (D-CA)
Thurman (D-FL)
Thune (R-SD)
Brown (D-FL)
Kind (D-WI)
Lucas (D-KY)
Tubbs Jones (D-OH)
Frost (D-TX)
Carson (D-OK)
Clyburn (D-SC)
Lewis (R-CA)
Jones (R-NC)
Pallone (D-NJ)
John (D-LA)
Berman (D-CA)
Davis (D-IL)
Graves (R-MO)
Holden (D-PA)
Cardin (D-MD)
Berkley (D-NV)
Boswell (D-IA)
Weiner (D-NY)
Baird (D-WA)
Woolsey (D-CA)
Davis (D-FL)
Nussle (R-IA)
Wexler (D-FL)
Delahunt (D-MA)
S Davis (D-CA)
Moore (D-KS)
Evans (D-IL)