

June 9, 2008

The Honorable Senator Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus:

As organizations committed to ensuring access to high quality laboratory testing for our nation's seniors, we are writing to express our strong support for S. 3101, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, which includes a repeal of the Medicare competitive bidding demonstration project for clinical laboratory services authorized by section 302(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

Clinical laboratory services are an essential component of quality health care. They provide physicians with objective data needed to help them diagnose, treat and monitor diseases and other medical conditions. The competitive bidding demonstration project mandated by the Medicare Modernization Act would threaten the quality of laboratory services and access to those services by all residents of the demonstration area and beyond. Furthermore, it would create a substantial and cumbersome administrative bureaucracy.

Thank you for your leadership on this crucial issue to Medicare beneficiaries, hospitals and laboratories. We look forward to working with you and your staff to enact this vital piece of legislation and avert the threat the demonstration project presents to patients and providers in San Diego and throughout the country.

Sincerely,

American Association of Bioanalysts  
American Association for Clinical Chemistry  
American Clinical Laboratory Association  
American Health Care Association  
American Medical Technologists  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Microbiology  
Cleveland Clinic  
Clinical Laboratory Management Association  
College of American Pathologists  
Health Industry Distributors Association  
Laboratory Corporation of America  
Marshfield Clinic

Mayo Clinic  
National Independent Laboratory Association  
Quest Diagnostics Inc.  
Roche Diagnostics