

June 23, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Dingell and Rangel:

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 H.R. 6331, 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
National Independent Laboratory Association
Quest Diagnostics
Roche Diagnostics