

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 3, 2003

Majority Leader Tom DeLay  
H-107 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Billy Tauzin  
Ranking Member John Dingell  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Michael Bilirakis  
Health Subcommittee  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Bill Thomas  
Ranking Member Charles Rangel  
Ways and Means Committee  
1102 Longworth House Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Nancy Johnson  
Health Subcommittee  
Ways and Means Committee  
1136 Longworth House Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Marion Berry  
1113 Longworth House Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Conferees:

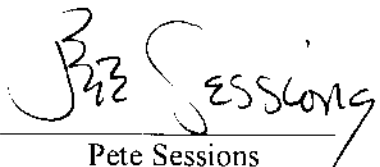
We thank you for your commitment to making Medicare a stronger, more effective program for delivering life-saving healthcare to senior citizens. We believe that an important aspect of achieving this end is to ensure that seniors have the choice of an unmanaged private fee-for-service prescription drug plan that parallels their present choice, under existing law, of the private fee-for-service option for obtaining core Medicare benefits.

We feel strongly that seniors should have access to an unmanaged prescription drug plan through Medicare Advantage (formerly Medicare+Choice) if they voluntarily choose to supplement the government Medicare contribution so as to pay for the higher premiums necessary for an unmanaged plan. At no extra cost to the government, this option allows older Americans voluntarily to spend their own money to safeguard their own lives. Accordingly, we urge you to ensure that the bill reported from conference includes the House language (the Collins Amendments) allowing this alternative.

We also agree with the Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 1 that the bill reported from conference should "clarify that [private fee-for-service] plans that use networks, as authorized in existing law, may vary cost-sharing between network and non-network providers without obtaining explicit approval from HHS," a clarification contained in the Senate bill.

By preserving the private fee-for-service plans under Medicare Advantage and allowing them to offer an unmanaged prescription drug benefit, we will give seniors the choices and the life-saving care they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Sessions". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "S".

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Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

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