

JIM NUSSLE

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Congress of the United States
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The Honorable William M. Thomas
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 205 1 5

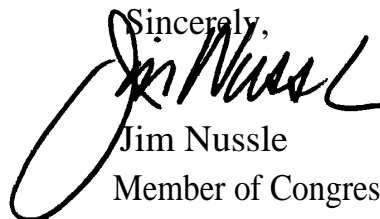
The Honorable Charles. E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510

Dear Chairman Thomas and Grassley:

First, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the approval of the respective versions of comprehensive legislation to strengthen the Medicare program and provide a comprehensive drug benefit for seniors. I also want to express my appreciation for the inclusion of a number of provisions. that will help health care providers ensure quality health care access in rural states such as Iowa.

As you move to a conference on this. important legislation, I want to. bring a matter to your attention of significant importance to. a number of my constituents. In the House approved legislation, section 302 provides for a national competitive bidding system for durable medical equipment. While I am pleased that the House and the Senate share the same necessary, long-term savings to the Medicare program, I am concerned about the potential negative impact of a competitive bidding system on my constituents. I urge that as you construct final Medicare legislation, you give every consideration to. the Senate language as it will achieve similar savings without negatively impacting employers and workers in my district.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to working with you to complete this critical legislation. If you have any questions, please contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

Jim Nussle
Member of Congress