



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

July 15, 2008

Dear Congressman:

I urge you to sustain President Bush's veto of H.R. 6331, the "Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008." As federal spending spirals out of control, H.R. 6331 makes funding cuts from promising free market Medicare reforms rather than wasteful spending.

H.R. 6331 seeks a short-term fix to the scheduled 10.6% reimbursement cut to healthcare providers, which will force a 21% reimbursement cut in 2010. In order to pay for this quick-fix, H.R. 6331 drastically cuts funding for Medicare Advantage (Part C) by some \$47 billion over the next decade. The legislation also delays the implementation of the competitive bidding program for medical equipment, which GAO studies found would save the government millions of dollars in waste without affecting beneficiaries.

Medicare Advantage offers promising steps towards competitive, free-market reform, allowing patients to access superior privatized healthcare. The fee-for-service system gives patients an array of options, especially beneficial to millions of rural and low-income seniors.

While proponents of H.R. 6331 claim steep provider payouts will increase Medicare options and save taxpayer dollars, free-market competition is the only permanent solution to drive down prices and increase patient options. **By crippling the only promising steps towards free market choices and long-term fiscal responsibility, H.R. 6331 is ultimately harmful to taxpayers, patients and the economy.**

Rather than hinder initiatives such as Medicare Advantage and competitive bidding, Congress should cut from the billions of dollars in pork being added to legislation such as the Farm Bill- just one example of billions in unnecessary giveaways and budget gimmicks that will make a huge dent in taxpayer wallets.

In order to promote free market principles and save taxpayer dollars, I urge you to sustain the veto of H.R. 6331.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist

1920 L Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC

20036

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org