

May 24, 2001

The Honorable Gary Condit
U.S. House of Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Condit:

The American College of Physicians–American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP–ASIM), representing 115,000 physicians who practice internal medicine and medical students, would like to commend your efforts for introducing H.R. 943, the “Flu Vaccine Availability Act of 2001.”

The shortage of influenza vaccine during the flu season last year raised concern among the ACP-ASIM membership regarding the vaccine delivery mechanisms that are currently in place. In response to last year’s shortage, the ACP-ASIM Board of Regents adopted a resolution on March 31, 2001 to ensure that adequate supplies of the influenza vaccine are made available to licensed health care providers prior to distribution to other parties in future years.

In addition, the ACP-ASIM began a 30-month campaign in October 2000, to educate the membership about the numerous issues surrounding influenza and other adult immunizations. The primary goal of this initiative is to support members in their efforts to improve adult immunization rates. Improving immunization rates begins with the availability of vaccines, so we thank you for taking the lead on this issue. We look forward to working with you in the future on adult immunization, and other issues improving the delivery of healthcare.

Sincerely,

William J. Hall, MD, FACP
President