

August 3, 1999

Dear Chairman Young:

We are writing to urge you to continue to oppose the \$194.5 million in health care provider user fees included in President Clinton's FY2000 Budget Request to Congress.

As you know, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 reduced Medicare reimbursement to health care providers by \$116 billion. We can assure you that the consequences of these extensive reductions are just starting to be realized by the health care community. It is alarming that, at this juncture, the Administration would propose to further cut providers through a tax aimed at funding the obligations of the Health Care Financing Administration. When combined with the provider cuts already in current law, this proposal is simply poor policy.

We understand that you are faced with the considerable task of passing the Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education Appropriations bill under the Fiscal Year 2000 discretionary budget cap. However, clearly new provider user fees did not make sense during last year's budget debate and they don't make sense now.

We appreciate your attention to this issue, and would be happy to meet with you or your staff to provide further information on this important issue to the physician and healthcare provider community.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Osteopathic Healthcare Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Urological Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association
College of American Pathologists
Emergency Department Practice Management Association
Federation of American Health Systems
Healthcare Billing and Management Association
Hospice Association of America
National Association for Home Care
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Association of Rehabilitation Agencies
Premier, Inc.
VHA, Inc.