

February 5, 2001

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for making the plight of those without health insurance an issue in your campaign. With the number of uninsured at 43 million, and projected to grow, the undersigned physician organizations hope that this important issue will receive priority status in your administration.

While several proposals to ensure basic health care coverage for all will likely be considered by the 107th Congress, we believe there should be no delay in moving forward with incremental reforms.

We ask that you commit to extending health care coverage to more Americans by allocating in your fiscal year 2002 budget proposal funding for incremental reforms as a first step. Furthermore, we urge you work toward a permanent solution to the problem of the uninsured, and we stand ready to assist you and your administration in reaching that goal.

The physician community looks forward to working with you on this and other health-related issues. We thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

American College of Cardiology

American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine

American College of Surgeons

American Gastroenterological Association

American Medical Association

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

American Society of Clinical Pathologists

American Society of Echocardiography

American Urogynecologic Society

Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers

National Coalition for Quality Diagnostic Imaging Services

Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists

Society of Thoracic Surgeons