



*Sound Policy. Quality Care.*

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March 19, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

As the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance), our mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care and improves timely access to high quality medical care for all Americans. As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance supports responsible health care reform that improves access, quality and affordability. Over the past year, the Alliance has regularly provided substantive comments, as recently as last week, on those health reform provisions that concern specialty physicians and patients in their care. Despite these constructive recommendations, our outstanding policy concerns persist. Therefore, **we must oppose the Senate-passed “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (HR 3590) and the newly released “Health Care & Education Affordability Reconciliation Act” (HR 4872) and urge you to vote NO on this health reform package.**

Although we do not support these particular bills, we agree that the status quo is unacceptable. We therefore urge Congress to reject the current health reform legislation and draft a more patient-centered health care reform bill that focuses on improving access to affordable health insurance, including provisions that eliminate pre-existing condition exclusions, provide adequate access to specialty care, address rescission of health coverage, ensures continuity in Medicaid coverage for children who go in and out of the system, and prohibits annual and lifetime coverage limits.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please e-mail us at [info@specialtydocs.org](mailto:info@specialtydocs.org).

Sincerely,

American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Urological Association  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Heart Rhythm Society  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions