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March 16, 2009

The Honorable John Rockefeller
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Courtney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: *"Preexisting Condition Exclusion Patient Protection Act of 2009"*

Dear Senator Rockefeller and Representative Courtney:


On behalf of the patients we serve, National Patient Advocate Foundation is pleased to offer its strong support for the *"Preexisting Condition Exclusion Patient Protection Act of 2009"*. This legislation eliminates pre-existing condition limitation periods for all individuals in the private group and non-group health insurance markets, thus allowing access to necessary healthcare services at a critical time for patients.

As you know, National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to healthcare services through policy reform. The advocacy activities of NPAF are informed and influenced by the experience of patients who receive case management services from our companion organization, Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF). Last year, PAF received more than 9.5 million inquiries from patients throughout the United States seeking assistance for access to care issues resulting from diagnoses of a chronic, debilitating or life-threatening disease. Of those, 48,369 became full patient cases involving communications made by PAF staff on behalf of a patient in order to reach positive resolution.

NPAF supports the principle that affordable health insurance ought to be available to all Americans regardless of their health status. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, approximately 133 million Americans, or 45% of the population, have at least one chronic disease. All of these individuals are at risk of facing health insurance discrimination due to their health status. The majority of the patients served by Patient Advocate Foundation have a cancer diagnosis – 78% in 2007. Those with chronic, debilitating diseases, even if preventable, should never be denied insurance coverage due to pre-existing conditions when they need it most.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of patients. NPAF will continue to watch with interest the movement of this important legislation through the United States Congress. If you have questions, or if we may provide you with additional information, please feel free to contact Grayson Fowler or Amy Boivin at 202-347-8009.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Davenport-Ennis