



May 7, 2007

The Honorable Tom Allen
Member of Congress
1127 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Allen:

Consumers Union, the independent, non-profit publisher of *Consumer Reports*, strongly supports your continuing efforts to improve and expand the Federal government's health care competitive effectiveness research. We thank you for your bipartisan introduction of the "Enhanced Health Care Value for All Act of 2007", a bill which will improve on section 1013 of the Medicare Modernization Act to provide substantially more resources and more coordination in our efforts to understand what medical drugs, devices, and procedures are most effective.

Our readers consistently tell us that the high and ever-rising cost of health care is one of the most serious issues facing America's families, and we believe reducing health care inflation will help reduce pressures on family health insurance premiums and slow the rise in the number of uninsured. We believe the best way to save money and improve care in the long run is to identify the most effective medical treatments, so that we can promote such treatments, and avoid procedures which fail to deliver quality care.

Like the weather, everyone in Washington talks about the high cost of health care—but few do anything about it. Your bill does. It takes dramatic and desperately needed action to finance comparative effectiveness research at the level required. By setting aside a tiny fraction of a penny from every health insurance dollar and placing it in a comparative effectiveness research trust fund, you will effectively provide the research financing that we desperately need. The kind of research and information supported by your bill will allow consumers to move toward the most effective health care solutions and avoid procedures and products that are ineffective. The long-term savings to the health care system could truly be in the trillions of dollars.

Consumers Union

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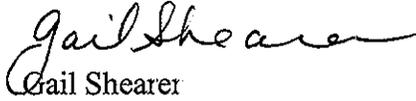
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Applying the best science to identify the best methods of treatment is long-overdue.
Your bill is a huge step in this direction, and we look forward to working with you on its
passage.

Sincerely,



Gail Shearer
Director, Health Policy Analysis



William Vaughan
Senior Policy Analyst (Health)