

**America's Health  
Insurance Plans**

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May 15, 2007

The Honorable Thomas Allen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1127 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Allen:

On behalf of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), I am writing to thank you for your leadership in promoting comparative effectiveness research. We support the objectives of your new legislation, H.R. 2184, the "Enhanced Health Care Value for All Act," and we appreciate having the opportunity to provide input on this bill.

We agree with you that research that compares the relative effectiveness of medical therapies will yield crucial information to ensure that patients receive the best treatments and to help eliminate unnecessary or ineffective treatments. To that end, AHIP's Board of Directors recently announced a comprehensive proposal to improve quality and safety throughout the U.S. health care system. A key component of this proposal is the creation of a new national entity to evaluate and compare the safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness of new and existing health care treatments and technologies. This entity, as we envision it, also would distribute the results of comparative effectiveness research in a useful format so patients and clinicians can make informed health care decisions. AHIP's members are strongly committed to advancing an evidence-based health care system in which information generated through clinical research is quickly and effectively translated into everyday medical practice.

Recognizing that this ambitious effort will require significant resources, we believe that comparative effective research should be carried out as a public-private partnership with funding from public sources and support from private sources, including health insurance plans, employers, and manufacturers. Your legislation, H.R. 2184, is an important step toward beginning this process. This partnership, combined with a commitment by Congress to an aggressive research agenda, would help our nation take bold steps toward the development of an evidence-based health care system.

Thank you again for advancing this priority. We look forward to continuing to work with you to support this goal and to create this new entity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Karen Ignagni  
President and CEO