

NASMD

National Association of State Medicaid Directors

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

September 24, 2009

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman Emeritus, House Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, Health Subcommittee for House Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stark
Chairman, Health Subcommittee for House Ways & Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dina Titus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Emeritus Dingell, Congressman Pallone, Chairman Rangel, Congressman Stark, Congresswoman Titus, and Chairman Waxman:

I am writing to express the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) strong support of H.R. 3631 the "Medicare Premium Fairness Act." This bill would protect all state Medicaid programs from paying disproportionately high Medicare Part B premiums for dual eligibles and people with disabilities. In addition to protecting the state Medicaid programs this important legislation will protect the Medicare beneficiaries who will see their Medicare Part B premiums increase even though they will not receive an adjustment in their Social Security benefits for 2010. Many of these beneficiaries are low income dual eligibles and they cannot afford these premium increases. Thus, we fully support this bill as it would extend the hold harmless policy to include all Medicare beneficiaries.

If you have questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 682-0100 x299.

Sincerely,



Ann Clemency Kohler
NASMD Director

Cc: Cindy Mann