



American Public Health Association

Working for a Healthier World

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February 12, 2003

The Honorable Ron Wyden
 516 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

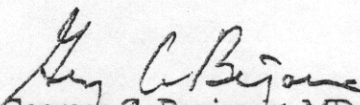
On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the largest and oldest organization of public health professionals in the nation, representing more than 50,000 members from over 50 public health occupations, I write in support of the Health Care that Works for All Americans Act.

Since 1950, the American Public Health Association (APHA) has vigorously supported and promoted the concept of universal health care throughout the United States. APHA is committed to the policy that all U.S. citizens deserve unencumbered access to quality health care services, regardless of race, gender, financial status and/or geographical location.

We are supportive of the Health Care that Works for All Americans Act for a number of reasons. First, the bill would establish a working group that would provide an open debate for Americans from a variety of backgrounds and experiences within the U.S. health care system to come together and examine the best ways to ensure quality, affordable health care for all Americans. Second, after convening hearings across the country to involve broad public participation, the working group would then provide Congress with recommendation on how to best address issues surrounding health care coverage and quality in the U.S. Finally, the bill would guarantee Congressional action on the final proposed recommendations from the working group.

APHA believes this legislation is an important step in keeping the discussion of how to improve the health care system at the forefront of the national agenda and for developing actionable recommendations for improving health care for all Americans. We look forward to working with you and Senator Hatch to move the bill forward this year.

Sincerely,


 George C. Benjamin, MD, FACP
 Executive Director

