

January 15, 2003

Senator Ron Wyden
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Our thanks to you and Senator Hatch for the pending re-introduction of the "Health Care that Works for All Americans Act." Your initiative is a welcome idea on how to move forward the debate on providing affordable health care to all Americans.

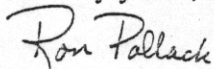
Your proposal avoids the mistakes of the past by ensuring a citizen-based, national educational campaign on health issues and possible solutions. It is a town meeting approach to develop a national consensus on what should be done to solve the growing health care crisis—and most importantly, it forces Congress to respond to that national consensus. We deeply appreciate your leadership in developing and promoting this all-important debate.

We especially appreciate your recognition that health access problems facing the nation are worsening and that citizens throughout the nation must be intimately involved in solving these problems.

This year, the low-income face massive Medicaid cuts by States trying to meet their balanced budget legal obligations. Additionally, labor disputes are growing as workers resist huge increases in health costs, the number of uninsured continues to climb past the 41 million mark, and huge gaps remain in Medicare's benefit package. We believe that the American people want solutions to these problems, that they need to be deeply involved in developing those solutions, and that Congress must finally be responsive to the public's wishes. The "Health Care that Works for All Americans Act" advances the debate on how to address these desperate needs.

We look forward to working with you and your cosponsors to advance this legislation in the 108th Congress.

Sincerely yours,



Ron Pollack
Executive Director

cc: Senator Hatch