



President
George J.Kourpias

Secretary-Treasurer
Ruben Burks

May 3, 2005

Honorable Pete Stark
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stark:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the Alliance for Retired Americans, I am writing to thank you for your continuing support of retirees and older Americans by introducing the "Medicare Early Access Act." The Alliance supports this legislation.

Your proposal would provide needed health care access to Americans between the ages of 55 and 64 who do not have access to coverage under another public or private health care plan. These Americans are among the most uninsured and underinsured because employers increasingly are dropping retiree health care coverage leaving them with few, if any, affordable coverage options. This legislation provides older Americans with affordable health care coverage that relieves their own financial burdens and also reduces costs to public agencies.

Thank you for introducing this bill to call attention to the health care problems faced by many older Americans. The Alliance for Retired Americans looks forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing a white handwritten signature that appears to read "Edward F. Coyle".

Edward F. Coyle
Executive Director