



**Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA**, Executive Vice President, CEO

December 4, 2007

The Honorable Pete Hoekstra  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2234 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoekstra:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1683, the "Communities Building Access Act." This bill would help to address the rising numbers of uninsured Americans by offering grants to communities to increase access to care through the development of proven, community-based programs that meet their local needs. It would also establish a data and assistance center to aid in the proliferation of community programs for the uninsured.

Expansion of health insurance coverage for the uninsured is one of the AMA's top priorities. Over the past two decades, the AMA has adopted comprehensive policy to improve health insurance coverage and access to care for the millions of Americans who lack health insurance. The AMA specifically supports providing states and local communities with the freedom to develop and test different models for improving coverage for those who are uninsured. Your legislation would provide an opportunity for local communities to experiment with innovative approaches to improve health insurance coverage.

We are pleased to support H.R. 1683, and applaud you for your leadership on this critical health issue. We look forward to working with you to expand health insurance coverage and access to care for the uninsured.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Maves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. A thin vertical red line is positioned to the right of the signature.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA