



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614/466-3543
www.odh.ohio.gov

John R. Kasich / Governor

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director of Health

April 3, 2012

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
338 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Portman,

I am writing to support the Medicare Better Health Rewards Program legislation that you and Senator Wyden introduced last week. As modeled by Ohio's own Cleveland Clinic, this is a patient-centered, proactive approach to changing behavior in a positive direction and I am happy to support your efforts to expand this program.

The Medicare Better Health Rewards Program established by your bill is a unique program that will be one of the first to reward patients, in this case Medicare beneficiaries, for playing an active role in improving and maintaining their health. Under this model, everyone wins. Patients benefit from better health outcomes as well as financial incentives and the Medicare system and taxpayers benefit financially because healthier beneficiaries cost the system less.

I am very proud of the success that this type of program has achieved at the Cleveland Clinic and am excited that your legislation proposes to expand this idea nationwide.

Thank you and Senator Wyden for your work towards improving the health of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D.
Director