LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
of
AGING ORGANIZATIONS

Barbara Kennelly, Chair

June 27, 2005

The Honorable Pete Stark
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Via Fax and Messenger

Dear Representative Stark:

The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) strongly endorse the bill you proposed to help individuals age 55-64 years buy into the Medicare program at an affordable price.

Older Americans who are not yet eligible for Medicare have a difficult time finding affordable health care and in some cases may find that no insurer will cover them at a time in their life when they most need health insurance protection.

Your bill, which combines the efficiency of Medicare's mass market purchasing power with the affordability provided by refundable tax credits, effectively solves one of our nation's toughest uninsured problems.

We wish you success in this important legislative effort, and we will be happy to work with you and your co-sponsors in promoting its passage.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
AFSCME Retiree Program
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
American Federation of Teachers Program on Retirement & Retirees
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities
B'nai B'rith International Center
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Eldercare America, Inc.
Families USA
Gray Panthers
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers

10 G St, NE, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20002 ♦ (202)216-0420 ♦ (202)216-0445 (Fax) ♦ www.lcao.org

National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc.
National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
OWL, the voice of midlife and older women
Service Employees International Union
United Auto Workers Retired Workers Department