

July 6, 2009

Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman  
Joseph Barton, Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee

Honorable Charles Rangel, Chairman  
David Camp, Ranking Member  
Ways and Means Committee

Honorable George Miller, Chairman  
John Kline, Ranking Member  
Education and Labor Committee

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C, 20510

Dear Chairmen Miller, Rangel and Waxman:

Our organizations write to request that you include best practices whistleblower protection for private sector healthcare workers who challenge fraud, waste, abuse, or violations of the standards and controls in this landmark health care legislation. They expand the scope of provisions in the discussion draft for narrower groups of workers such as employees of skilled nursing home facilities.

Since 2006 Congress has enacted or strengthened that cornerstone for accountability in six laws. They include consumer product manufacturing and retail commerce, railroads, the trucking industry, metropolitan transit systems, defense contractors, and all entities receiving stimulus funds.

Whistleblowers will be indispensable as the best resource that exists against fraud and other institutional misconduct. When recently surveyed by Price Waterhouse, more than 5,000 CEO's throughout the world reported that whistleblowers are more effective in detecting fraud than internal compliance offices, auditors and law enforcement agencies combined.

Of course, the need for whistleblowers hardly stops with cost control. The most significant concern is the quality and safety of patient care. Protecting whistleblowers in the medical industry has more life and death consequences than in any other industry. It is not realistic to expect that doctors, nurses and other providers will defend medical consumers when needed, however, if they cannot defend themselves against retaliation.

Our organizations deeply appreciate your consideration of this request. We will provide any available support that your offices need to help include this safety and accountability cornerstone in final legislation.

Sincerely,

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Chairman  
The 357 Commission

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