

June 12, 2008

The Honorable Senator Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Senate Hart Building 213
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

As organizations committed to ensuring access to high quality laboratory testing for our nation's seniors, we are writing to express our strong support for S. 3118, the Preserving Access to Medicare Act, which includes a repeal of the Medicare competitive bidding demonstration project for clinical laboratory services authorized by section 302(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

Clinical laboratory services are an essential component of quality health care. They provide physicians with objective data needed to help them diagnose, treat and monitor diseases and other medical conditions. The competitive bidding demonstration project mandated by the Medicare Modernization Act would threaten the quality of laboratory services and access to those services by all residents of the demonstration area and beyond. Furthermore, it would create a substantial and cumbersome administrative bureaucracy.

Thank you for your leadership on this crucial issue to Medicare beneficiaries, hospitals and laboratories. We look forward to working with you and your staff to enact this vital piece of legislation and avert the threat the demonstration project presents to patients and providers in San Diego and throughout the country.

Sincerely,

American Association of Bioanalysts
American Association for Clinical Chemistry
American Clinical Laboratory Association
American Health Care Association
American Medical Technologists
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
Cleveland Clinic
Clinical Laboratory Management Association
Health Industry Distributors Association
Laboratory Corporation of America
Marshfield Clinic
Mayo Clinic

National Independent Laboratory Association
Quest Diagnostics Inc.
Roche Diagnostics