



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

September 22, 2009

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Burgess:

The American Medical Association (AMA) wishes to express our support for your amendment to H.R. 3200, "America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009," that would permit physicians and other providers to balance bill patients, as well as allow patients to engage in private contracting with their physician, without restrictions, under the public health plan.

Adoption of this amendment would be an important step forward for patients and physicians. Adequate payment would incentivize physicians and other providers to participate in the public plan, thereby ensuring broad access to physicians and other providers. The amendment would also ensure that public plan enrollees maintain flexibility and freedom of choice in contracting with physicians on a private basis.

The AMA thanks you for your leadership in helping to ensure that patients across the country have access to quality care as well as increased freedom and flexibility in choosing their physician.

Sincerely,

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

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA