



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 1, 2007

Mr. William D. Novelli
Chief Executive Officer
AARP
610 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049

Dear Bill:

I am disappointed by AARP's advocacy for the so-called Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act, legislation under consideration by the House that will limit the health care freedom and security of millions of American seniors if enacted. I am writing to respectfully share some facts about this legislation that are not available to the public on the AARP website -- facts I believe every dues-paying AARP member around the country is entitled to know before this legislation is put to a vote.

My colleagues and I support reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), a program established during the 12 years Republicans were in charge of Congress. Great efforts were made by our ranking Republican members to work with their majority counterparts in hopes of forging a bipartisan consensus on a reauthorization bill.

Unfortunately the legislation being brought before the House needlessly asks millions of Americans to sacrifice their freedom and security for an expansion of government-run health care. And those asked to sacrifice the most under the House legislation are low-income, elderly Americans, millions of whom send money to AARP in the trusting belief that your organization is fighting for their best interests in Washington.

The legislation under consideration by the House this week cuts Medicare benefits for low-income seniors. Specifically, the legislation calls for \$193 billion in cuts to seniors' Medicare benefits over a 10-year period. This figure includes \$157 billion in cuts to Medicare Advantage benefits for seniors; \$15.8 billion in cuts to Medicare Part A benefits for seniors, including access to long-term care, rehabilitation, and skilled nursing facilities; and \$27 billion in cuts to Medicare Part B for seniors. In my congressional district alone, 14,267 seniors currently benefit from Medicare Advantage, and 73 percent of them will lose their benefits if the Medicare cuts in the House bill become law.

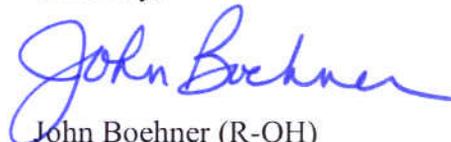
It is troubling that none of this information can be found on the AARP website, which features a front-page section urging seniors to call their legislators to vote in favor of the bill.

The revenue generated by the bill's Medicare cuts on seniors would not be redirected into other programs that serve older Americans. Rather, it would be used to expand the children's health care program and transform it to provide government-dictated benefits to a much wider universe of beneficiaries, potentially including illegal immigrants. This is a false choice, and it's one that's brought before Congress in a rush to notch political "accomplishments" rather than do the right thing for children AND seniors. I'm deeply disappointed, as are my colleagues, about AARP's participation in this process.

As Republican Leader in the House of Representatives, I am disturbed to see billions of dollars in taxpayer funds moved out of programs that provide quality care and diverse choices for seniors, and moved into new programs that limit patients' choices and do not put the needs of law-abiding American seniors first. Republicans believe all Americans should have the freedom to choose the type of health care that is the best fit for them and their loved ones. This freedom to choose is essential to Americans' health care security. The legislation being brought before the House threatens the health care security and freedom of millions of American seniors for all the wrong reasons, and it must be defeated.

I urge you to withdraw your support for this bill, and help us work in a bipartisan manner to extend this very important program WITHOUT these dangerous cuts to Medicare. Thank you for your consideration of these facts and the opportunity to share them with your members.

Sincerely,



John Boehner (R-OH)
House Republican Leader