



**July 24, 2007
For Immediate Release**

**CENTER FOR MEDICARE ADVOCACY COMMENDS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR PROTECTING MEDICARE
BENEFICIARIES AND CHILDREN**

The Center for Medicare Advocacy, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to obtain fair access to Medicare and necessary health care for older people and people with disabilities, commends the House of Representatives for its leadership in protecting and expanding access to health care for Medicare beneficiaries and for children.

“For over 40 years Medicare has provided stable, uniform health care benefits for America’s elders and people with disabilities,” Executive Director Judith Stein states. “*The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007* introduced in the House of Representatives will stop efforts to make Medicare a private program run by insurance companies who value profits more than people. This bill would protect the stability and effectiveness of Medicare by helping to preserve the Medicare trust fund and by ensuring that the premiums Medicare beneficiaries pay are not inflated by overpayments to private insurance companies.”

The Bill promotes fiscal responsibility by reducing payments to private Medicare Advantage plans to keep them more in line with payments for people in the traditional Medicare program. It protects Medicare beneficiaries with low-incomes by improving programs that help pay Medicare Part B premiums and improving eligibility requirements for the Part D Low Income Subsidy. The bill increases access to health care providers by ensuring that doctors and rural health care providers are compensated adequately by Medicare.

“Like Medicare, The State Children’s Health Insurance Program – the SCHIP program - has been successful in increasing access to health care for a vulnerable population,” Ms. Stein continues. “We are pleased that the House of Representatives has taken action to protect and improve that program as well. Without excessive payments to private plans, there is plenty of funding to provide access to health care for all generations.”

The Center for Medicare Advocacy wholeheartedly supports *The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007*, H.R. 3162, introduced on July 24, 2007 by Rep. John D. Dingell (D-MI) and co-sponsored by Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), and Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ).