

SUE W. KELLY
19TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3219

December 9, 2005

- PLEASE REPLY TO:
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The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:


As you know, the budget reconciliation conference has before it critical language in Section 6103 of S. 1932, the Deficit Reduction Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 2005, that would ensure Medicare beneficiaries have access to needed rehabilitation services at rehabilitation hospitals and units, known as inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs). We strongly urge you to accept this language in the upcoming budget conference negotiations.

This provision would keep enforcement of the "75% Rule" compliance threshold at the initial 50 percent level until June 30, 2007. It also will require the creation of a rehabilitation advisory council, and mandate that the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General examine the types of patients treated by rehabilitation hospitals.

Access to high quality medical rehabilitative care and rational IRF policies are critically important to the health and well being of our constituents. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services severely underestimated the actual impact of its policy on Medicare beneficiaries since new rules took effect July 1, 2004. The language contained in the Senate's budget reconciliation package would ensure adequate access to inpatient rehabilitative care and allow completion of much-needed research.

We believe it is important that these provisions be included intact in any conference agreement between the House and Senate on budget reconciliation. We look forward to your support of this request.

Sincerely,


Sue W. Kelly
Member of Congress

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Rep. Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Jon Porter

Rep. Jon Porter
Member of Congress

Ron Paul

Rep. Ron Paul
Member of Congress

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Rep. Vernon Ehlers
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Rep. Jo Bonner
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Katherine Harris

Rep. Katherine Harris
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Rob Simmons

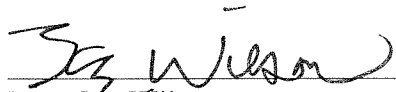
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Rep. Chris Smith
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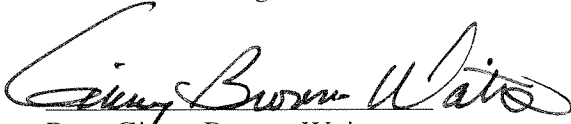
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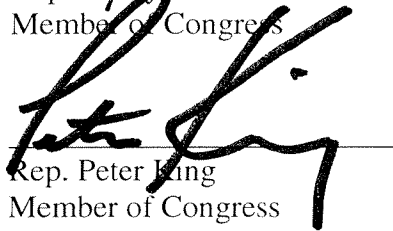
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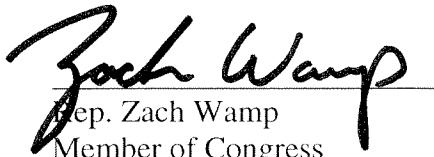
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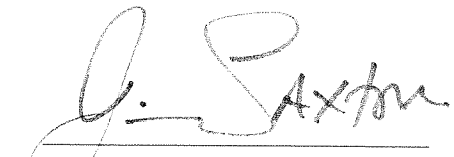
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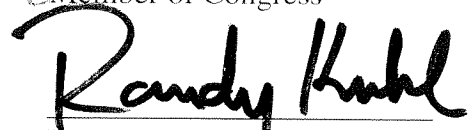
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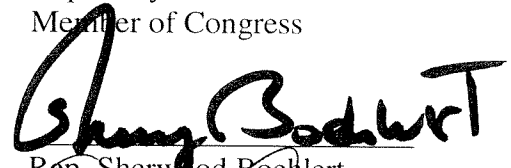
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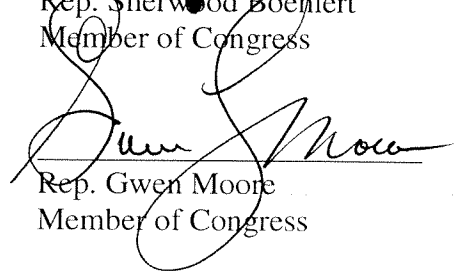
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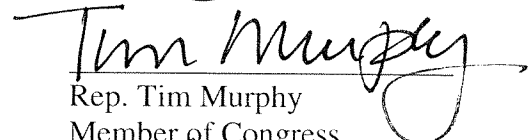
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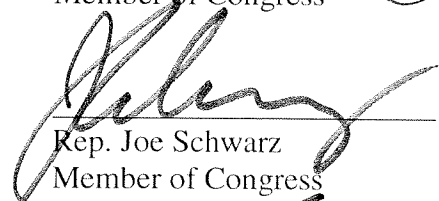
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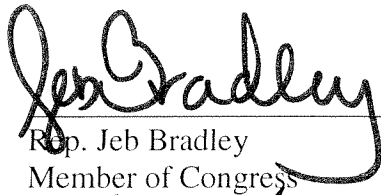
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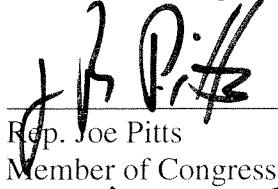


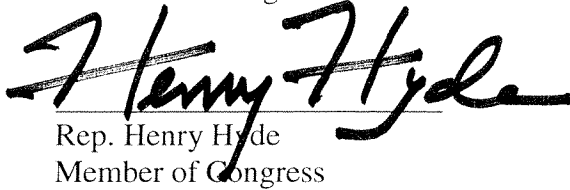
Rep. Joe Schwarz
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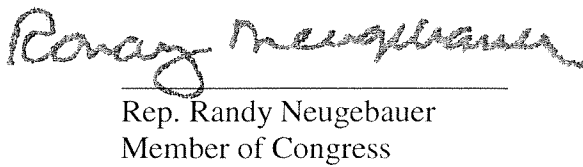


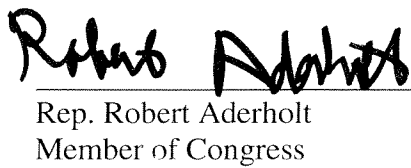
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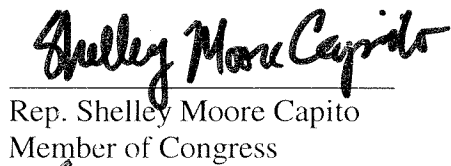

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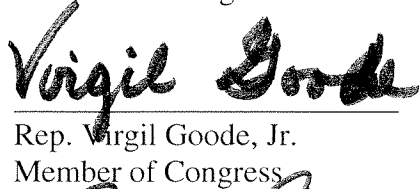

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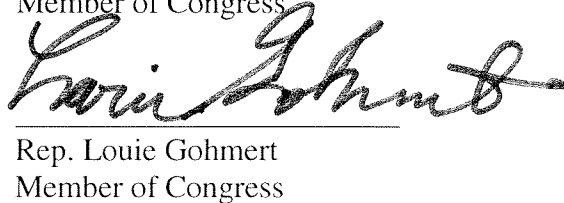

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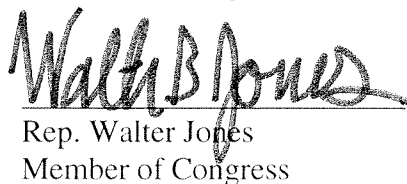

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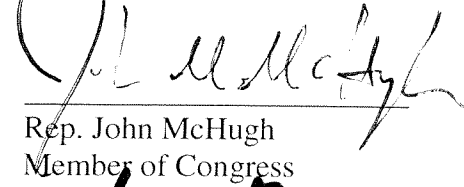

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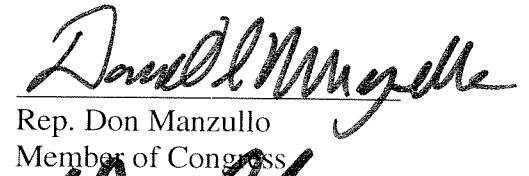

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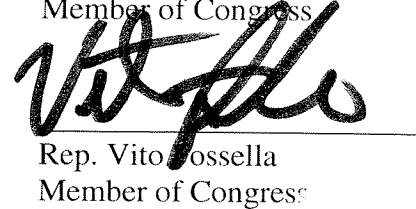

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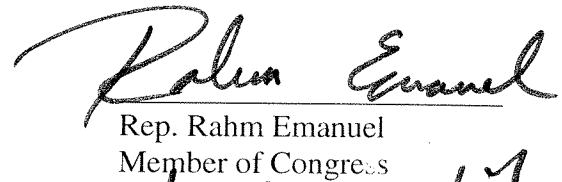

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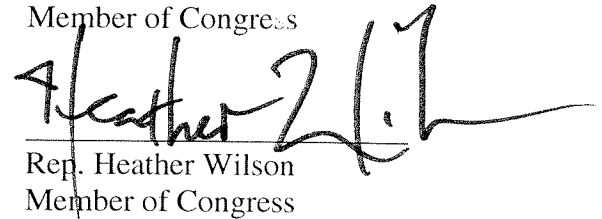

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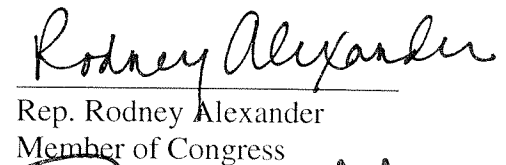

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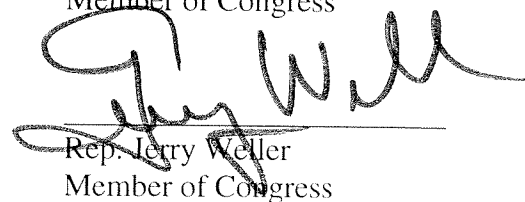

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