



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 2003

Senator Charles Grassley
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Grassley,

I want to congratulate you on Senate passage of the jobs and growth bill, and also on the passage of your amendment to that bill which increased federal assistance to rural providers through the Medicare program.

When we met in the Oval Office in early April, we discussed our concerns that rural Medicare providers need additional help, and we committed to addressing their problems. We agreed on the need to address issues faced by rural hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and physicians.

You demonstrated your commitment by passing your amendment last week with tremendous bipartisan support, and by pushing hard for it in the conference negotiations on the jobs and growth bill.

I will support the increased Medicare funding for rural providers contained in your amendment as a part of a bill that implements our shared goal for Medicare reform.

Sincerely,



George W. Bush