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Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

September 28, 2010

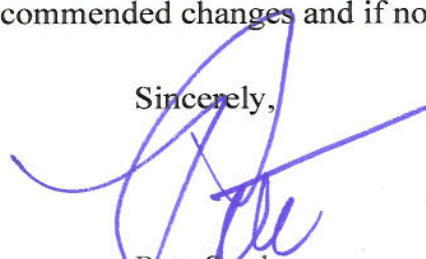
Donald Berwick, M.D.
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Berwick:

I am writing to share a letter that was recently sent to me regarding Medicare's competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment. The letter, which is signed by 166 experts in auctions and competitive bidding (including several Nobel Prize winners), contends there are serious flaws with the current design and implementation of Medicare's competitive bidding program. According to these experts, if not addressed these flaws will ultimately reduce beneficiary access to necessary equipment, lead to lower quality items and services, and could increase fraud and abuse.

I urge you to give these comments and recommendations serious consideration. I would also request that you inform me in a timely way as to whether CMS plans to incorporate any of the recommended changes and if not, why not.

Sincerely,



Pete Stark
Chairman

Attachment: Letter from 166 Concerned Auction Experts on Medicare Competitive Bidding Program.