



## American Academy of Family Physicians

2021 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036-1011

June 9, 2004

The Honorable Robert Graham  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft of your legislation, *the Medicare Preventive Services Coverage Act*. On behalf of the 93,700 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, I am pleased to inform you that the AAFP strongly endorses the bill, and we congratulate you for your efforts on behalf of the nation's seniors.

This legislation would help make Medicare more responsive to the people that it directly serves. By allowing CMS to cover preventive services that are based on evidence and current science and that have been reviewed and approved by the United States Preventive Services Task Force and other appropriate organizations, the bill helps direct Medicare toward proven health care services that will keep seniors healthier. The AAFP commends your commitment to evidence-based measures that will prevent accidents and illness and provide more effective health care. We believe that sound science should always be the basis of medical decisions.

The Academy would urge you and your colleagues in Congress to consider giving CMS the authority to review current preventive services in the light of the US Preventive Services Task Force recommendations and to alter reimbursement accordingly. And we would also suggest that Congress might want to make more explicit the agency's authority to review and revise payments as the evidence for previously approved services changes.

Thank you, Senator Graham, for your commitment to the health of Medicare patients and for your leadership in improving this important program that serves them.

Sincerely,

  
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