

DRAFT LETTER/EMAIL TO YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Dear (Insert Member of Congress Name Here):

I am writing to ask for your support of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement of credentialed medical interpreters to ensure that limited English proficient (LEP) people have equitable access to quality healthcare through credentialed medical interpreting services.

According to an Institute for Healthcare Advancement study, \$73 Billion is spent annually in unnecessary health care expenses due to the inability of patients to understand what medical providers are communicating. Providing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement of credentialed medical interpreters will reduce health care costs and improve quality of care by providing effective, safe communication between providers and patients, preventing adverse events such as medical errors and reducing Medicare and Medicaid expenditures on costly ER visits, unnecessary medical tests and procedures.

I understand that it is unlikely that Congress will be considering health care related legislation in the coming months. In the interim, please let U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius know that you would like to see a Medicare and Medicaid demonstration project to illustrate that reimbursement of credentialed medical interpreters will indeed reduce health care costs while improving the health and safety of our limited English proficient Medicare and Medicaid population.

Sincerely,

INSERT NAME HERE