



February 13, 2009

Honorable Herbert H. Kohl, Chair  
Senate Special Committee on Aging

Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Kohl:

On behalf of Families USA, the national voice of health care consumers, we are writing to express our support for the Physician Payments Sunshine Act of 2009 (S.301). We thank you for introducing this bipartisan legislation that will offer much-needed transparency to the financial relationships that exist between physicians and the health care industry.

The Sunshine Act is a strong and comprehensive piece of legislation that will foster accountability and transparency throughout our health care system. Undisclosed gifts and payments given to physicians from drug, biologic and medical device manufacturers can influence medical decisions and increase health care costs. Americans are justifiably concerned about the hidden financial relationships between industry and the medical profession.

By requiring public disclosure about such relationships, this bipartisan legislation would help to reduce the impact pharmaceutical marketing has on physicians and would instead promote appropriate prescribing and drug safety.

Families USA is pleased to endorse S.301, which will establish a useful central repository of information accessible to states and the public. Thank you again for your commitment to this important issue on behalf of patients, consumers and taxpayers. We look forward to working with you in the very near future on comprehensive health care reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Pollack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald F. Pollack  
Executive Director