

*American Association on Health and Disability
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November 4, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of representatives
Washington DC, 20515

RE: Support of Critical Provisions in HR 3962

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) would like to extend our support and gratitude for specific language of H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2009. AAHD is the only national association specifically dedicated to promote health and wellness initiatives for children and adults with disabilities. We achieve our mission through education, research, policy and public awareness.

Healthcare should be affordable, comprehensive and accessible to all Americans, including children and adults with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Many of the provisions in H.R. 3962 will improve the health status and quality of life for people with disabilities.

There are three provisions in H.R. 3962, that AAHD applauds you for integrating into the language of the bill. These three provisions are integral to reducing the incidence of secondary condition in children and adults with disabilities and reducing health disparities between people with disabilities and the non disabled in this country. These three provision are as follow:

- Inclusion of “disability” as a category for purposes of **health disparities**.
- Requirements for the development of standards for **accessible diagnostic and other medical equipments**.
- Inclusion of “Disability” as a subpopulation in the provisions regarding **Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER)** and ensuring that CER is not used to mandate payments, coverage or reimbursement policies.

On behalf of AAHD, we thank you for your leadership in developing the Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2009 and including children and adults with disabilities and chronic health conditions in the language of the HR 3962.

Sincerely,

Roberta S. Carlin, MS, JD
Executive Director