



**American Association for
Marriage and Family Therapy**

Advancing the Professional Interests
of Marriage and Family Therapists

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October 29, 2009

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Attn: Reva Price

The Hon. Henry Waxman
Chair, Energy & Commerce Cmte.
Attn: Ruth Brown

The Hon. Fortney Stark
Chair, Ways & Means Health Subcmte.
Attn: Debbie Curtis

Re: Endorsement of HR 3962

Dear House Leaders:

On behalf of our 26,000 members and the 50,000 nationally-licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs), the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy is pleased to endorse HR 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

We are particularly pleased that Section 1308 of HR 3962 would add Marriage and Family Therapists to Medicare Part B as independent practitioners, to address the current widespread and growing shortage of Medicare behavioral-health practitioners. We applaud Division A, Title I, of the bill for making immediate reforms to inappropriate private health insurer practices. We also strongly support provisions such as Section 2522 regarding behavioral health training funding, and Division D regarding Indian Health Service improvements. Further, we appreciate that the bill's funding mechanisms do not rely on taxing employer-sponsored health insurance plans, which would reduce those plans' benefits for millions of Americans, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation.

We are urging all our members to contact their House and Senate Members to strongly support the provisions of HR 3962 as the final language of Health Reform to be enacted this year. We would be pleased to assist you as you work toward that end.

Sincerely,

Tracy Todd, PhD
Director
Professional and Public Affairs Department