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Congress of the United States
 House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

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January 11, 2000

Ms. Nancy-Ann Min DeParle
 Administrator
 Health Care Financing Administration
 200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20201-0004

Dear Ms. Min DeParle:

Re: Medicare Coverage for AAC Devices

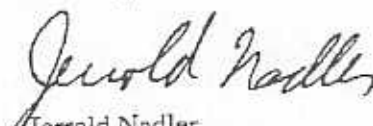
As you know, I have written to you previously concerning Medicare coverage for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices. AAC Devices provide individuals with severe expressive communication disabilities (i.e., unable to speak, use sign language, or write due to cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, stroke, ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, etc.) the ability to communicate, allowing them to live more productive, safe and enjoyable lives.

On December 30, 1999 the nation's thirteen leading disability organizations submitted a formal Request for National Medicare Coverage to HCFA, sparking a ninety-day review period for AAC devices. These devices are already funded by every state Medicaid program, CHAMPUS (now Tri-Care) and the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Federal level, and hundreds of commercial health insurance providers.

I urge you to promptly and affirmatively complete your review of AAC Devices no later than the expiration of the ninety-day review period and to move forward with Medicare coverage of AAC Devices.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,


 Jerrold Nadler
 Member of Congress