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# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4501

March 20, 2000

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The Honorable Nancy-Ann Min DeParle  
Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration  
314-G Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator DeParle:

As you may recall, I wrote you last year regarding Medicare coverage for augmentative communication devices (AAC Devices).

It has come to my attention that since my letter of April 21, 1999, thirteen leading disability groups filed a petition for a national Medicare coverage decision for AAC Devices and HCFA will reach a decision by March 30. Currently, AAC devices are covered by Medicaid, CHAMPUS/Tricare, the Veterans' Administration and several hundred commercial health insurance providers. Clearly, Medicare beneficiaries deserve access to the same technology available to thousands of Americans in these programs and health plans.

I firmly believe the facts will demonstrate the need for Medicare coverage of AAC devices. I am sure you will ensure a full and fair review of this request within the ninety day period.

I have attached a copy of my April, 1999 letter for your review and thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response concerning this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress