

May 26, 2011

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Shelley Berkley
U.S. House of Representatives
405 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Burgess and Berkley:

On behalf of the undersigned national organizations, we applaud your leadership and commitment to health by introducing the "Preservation of Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act of 2011." As you know, it is vitally important that patients continue to have access to care that supports bone health services. Thanks to your leadership, we have a chance to increase the number of screenings and decrease the number of individuals with osteoporosis in the U.S. by reversing the cuts to dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) reimbursements.

The effect that osteoporosis and its related fractures have on the U.S. healthcare system is staggering, accounting for approximately 300,000 hip fracture hospitalizations and costing more than \$18 billion per year. Therefore, it is vitally important that patients continue to have access to services that support bone health, including DXA, that measure bone mass and predict fracture risk. At a time when 61 million people in the U.S. are projected to have osteoporosis and low bone mass by 2020, it is critical that the nation maintain and preserve its capacity to treat this costly, debilitating and growing health disorder.

Thank you, Representatives Burgess and Berkley, for recognizing the importance of prevention and early detection of bone fractures and osteoporosis. We fully support your efforts to maintain patient access to DXA services and strongly endorse the "Preservation of Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act of 2011." Thank you for your commitment to the nation's health.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Bone Health
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Medical Women's Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
Assisted Living Federation of America
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
International Society for Clinical Densitometry

International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Osteoporosis Foundation
OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
The Paget Foundation
RetireSafe
Society for Women's Health Research
The Endocrine Society
Women's Research & Education Institute