

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2003

Administrator Tom Scully
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 8010
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Administrator Scully:

As members of the New York State Congressional Delegation, we write to convey our concern over a recently proposed rule issued by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to change funding to hospitals for resident training in a non-provider setting. We believe that these proposed changes would be detrimental to virtually every dental residency training program in the country, and more importantly the patient population that depends on these important services.

As you know in the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997, Congress included provisions attempting to encourage and support non-hospital residency programs by allowing hospitals to include dental residents in a non-hospital setting in the hospital's cost report for indirect Graduate Medical Education (GME) payments. After years of funding non-hospital residency training, CMS is now stating that it believes that Congress intended for the agency to allow hospitals to receive GME payments for the non-hospital setting *only if the hospital has continuously funded the program from its inception, and not since signing a written agreement between the non-hospital residency setting and the hospital*. Rather than expanding and promoting these training programs, the proposed rule would cut them, and go against the purpose and intent of Congress in the BBA.

In many instances, the training programs supported by GME in non-hospital settings may be the only access that many at risk patients have to specialty services. As a result of the indirect GME payments to hospitals, dental programs are able to provide quality care to seniors, children and other uninsured and underserved populations. Finalization of this rule could jeopardize continuation of these programs and diminish the quality of care that they provide.

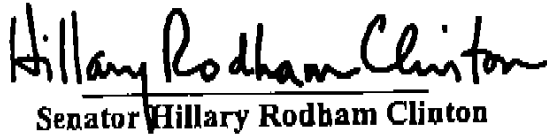
As members of the New York State delegation we urge you to withdraw this proposed rule, and continue funding for non-hospital site residency training. Given the expedited timeline in which this rule is to be put into effect, we urge you to look over the specific provisions in Section IV (F)(2) of the proposed rule.

Thank you for your attention to this matter that is of the utmost importance to dental schools, hospitals, student and patients all across New York State. We would appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Tim Bishop, MC


Jack Quinn, MC

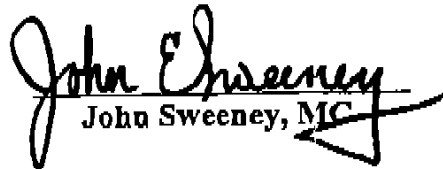

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton


Senator Charles Schumer


Gary Ackerman, MC

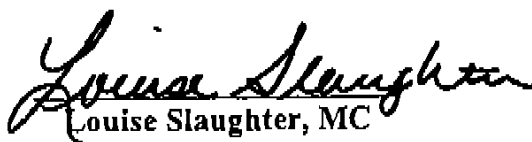

Charles Rangel, MC


Carolyn McCarthy, MC

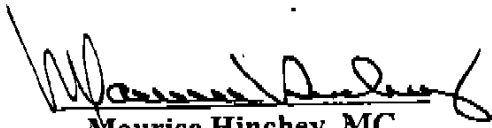

John Sweeney, MC

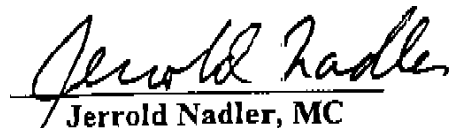

Eliot Engel, MC


Amo Houghton, MC


Louise Slaughter, MC

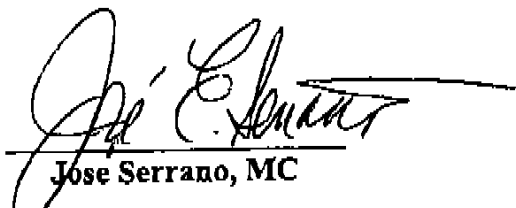

Edolphus Towns, MC



Maurice Hinchey, MC

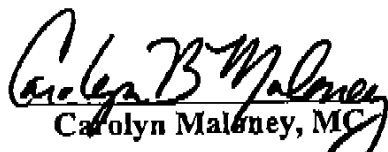

Jerrold Nadler, MC


Steve Israel, MC



Anthony Weiner, MC


Jose Serrano, MC


Sherwood Boehlert, MC



Carolyn Maloney, MC

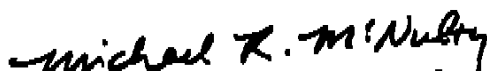

Peter King, MC

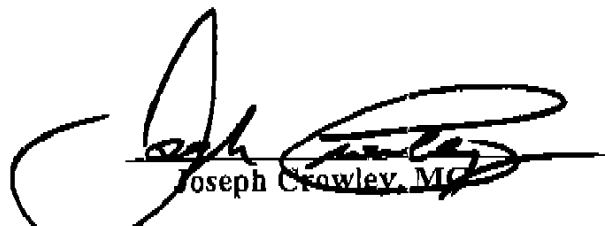

Tom Reynolds, MC

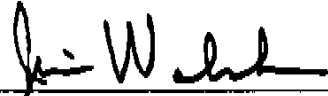

Nita Lowey, MC


Major Owens, MC


Nydia Velázquez, MC


Michael McNulty, MC


Joseph Crowley, MC



James Walsh, MC