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March 2, 2009

The Honorable Charles E. Johnson
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Secretary Johnson:

We write in support of continuing Wisconsin's SeniorCare program. As you know, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle recently submitted an application for the extension of Wisconsin's SeniorCare prescription drug program waiver through 2012. On behalf of the tens of thousands of seniors enrolled in Wisconsin's SeniorCare prescription drug program, we strongly urge you to approve the waiver extension application for this crucial program, which enables seniors across the state to afford necessary medications.

Wisconsin seniors deserve the best prescription drug program available, and that program is SeniorCare. Time and again, we have seen why SeniorCare is an invaluable asset to Medicare beneficiaries in our state.

SeniorCare makes fiscal sense. This program saves the federal government money, and it saves money for seniors. The average annual federal subsidy for a SeniorCare waiver participant is $588, nearly a third of the $1,690 the federal government spends to subsidize a Part D participant. As a result, this program will save taxpayers an estimated $31 million while providing primary prescription drug coverage for tens of thousands of seniors.

Furthermore, Wisconsin seniors prefer SeniorCare -- and for good reason. The program provides almost 91,000 Wisconsin seniors with access to comprehensive prescription drug coverage. And because SeniorCare is able to negotiate better drug prices, an AARP study showed that 94% of SeniorCare participants are better off under SeniorCare than they would be under Medicare Part D.

Extending this program is the right thing to do for the state of Wisconsin, Wisconsin seniors, and American taxpayers. We ask for your support and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Russ Feingold

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