

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**  
*of*  
**AGING ORGANIZATIONS**

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*Barbara Kennelly, Chair*

June 27, 2005

The Honorable Pete Stark  
The Honorable Sherrod Brown

Via Fax and Messenger

Dear Representatives Brown and Stark:

The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) strongly endorse the bill you proposed to help individuals age 55-64 years buy into the Medicare program at an affordable price.

Older Americans who are not yet eligible for Medicare have a difficult time finding affordable health care and in some cases may find that no insurer will cover them at a time in their life when they most need health insurance protection.

Your bill, which combines the efficiency of Medicare's mass market purchasing power with the affordability provided by refundable tax credits, effectively solves one of our nation's toughest uninsured problems.

We wish you success in this important legislative effort, and we will be happy to work with you and your co-sponsors in promoting its passage.

Sincerely,

*AFL-CIO*  
*AFSCME Retiree Program*  
*Alliance for Retired Americans*  
*American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging*  
*American Federation of Teachers Program on Retirement & Retirees*  
*Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities*  
*B'nai B'rith International Center*  
*Catholic Health Association of the United States*  
*Eldercare America, Inc.*  
*Families USA*  
*Gray Panthers*  
*National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys*  
*National Active and Retired Federal Employees*  
*National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers*  
*National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc.*  
*National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors*  
*National Association of Social Workers*  
*National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs*  
*National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare*  
*OWL, the voice of midlife and older women*  
*Service Employees International Union*  
*United Auto Workers Retired Workers Department*