



August 2, 2000

Dear Colleague:

Your help is needed to prevent the \$1500 Medicare cap from returning. We need you to contact your representatives in Congress to urge that the moratorium on the cap be extended.

Last year ASHA members achieved an important victory by convincing Congress to impose a two-year moratorium on the \$1500 Medicare cap. **This victory was achieved because ASHA members from all over the country worked together to let Congress know the damaging impact of the cap.** While there is no Medicare cap for 2000 and 2001, it is only temporary and will return January 1, 2002 unless we convince Congress to take further action.

When Congress passed the two-year moratorium, it was with the understanding that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) would work with ASHA and other organizations to develop a more appropriate payment method—one that would contain costs to the Medicare system but not deny needed care to beneficiaries. **Unfortunately, two years does not appear to be enough time for HCFA to adequately research and develop an appropriate payment method.** Since HCFA will not be ready with another payment method at the end of the two-year period, it is essential that Congress extend the moratorium.

This year ASHA has played a leadership role in bringing together numerous organizations that have an interest in this issue and we are working together to lobby Congress. Congress is currently considering Medicare legislation, and it is vital that an extension of the caps be included. We are asking Congress for a three-year extension in order to give adequate time to develop an appropriate payment method.

I have no doubt that ASHA members working together can again successfully influence Congress. It would be easy to remain unconcerned because the cap is currently not in place, but it is essential that we proactively take the initiative before the cap can be put back into place.

**I urge you to send a letter (such as the attached sample or better, use your own words) on your business or home stationary — or to send an email to your members of Congress through the ASHA web site at [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) — and let our voices be heard on Capitol Hill.**

ASHA lobbyists will continue to work in Washington to bring the message to Congress, but in reality you are the best advocates. Congress will act only if they hear from you, their constituents. Please take this important step to protect our professions and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Jeri A. Logemann, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
President