

June 10, 2011

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Via Hand Delivery and Email

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cliff Stearns
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
Vice Chairman, Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton, Chairman Stearns, Chairman Pitts and Vice Chairman Burgess:

We represent AARP with respect to the letter you sent to AARP on April 18, 2011, regarding AARP's involvement in the negotiations on health care reform legislation. This letter supplements our letter of May 20, 2011, in which we provided initial documents responsive to your request.

Pursuant to our agreement with your staff, we are continuing to provide documents on a rolling basis. Consistent with those discussions, today AARP is providing materials in response to questions 4 and 5 of your letter. We are producing a total of 366 pages today, which bear Bates numbers AARP.EC-000019 to AARP.EC-000385. The documents responsive to your request are enclosed as searchable PDF files.

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AARP made reform of health care a top priority issue in the run up to the 2008 Presidential election and actively sought to make health care reform a key issue to be tackled by the new President. During that time, AARP was very public in its efforts to achieve changes in the health care system for which there had been a long history of bipartisan support. These included expanded access to affordable quality coverage, barring insurers from discriminating against individuals with pre-existing conditions, lowering prescription drug costs, promoting prevention and wellness efforts, advancing delivery and payment system reforms to reward quality rather than quantity of care, and strengthening efforts to fight fraud, waste, and abuse.

As you will see from the documents being produced today, as legislation advanced, AARP sought to achieve key priorities for older Americans in Medicare, including:

- Protecting and strengthening Medicare's guaranteed benefits;
- Lowering seniors' prescription drug costs by closing the Medicare Part D coverage gap, improving the Part D low income subsidy, and the Medicare Savings Program;
- Creating a transitional care benefit to help people safely return to their homes or other setting after a hospital stay;
- Eliminating barriers to preventive care;
- Cutting waste, fraud and abuse; and
- Improving Medicare's long-term financing.

AARP also sought to achieve key priorities for older Americans not yet eligible for Medicare, including:

- Cracking down on insurance company abuses, such as denying affordable coverage because of health status, setting arbitrary caps on how much care they will cover, and charging much higher premiums based on age;
- Creating a pathway for the approval of safe and affordable generic versions of biologic drugs;
- Providing affordable coverage options to millions of older Americans and small businesses; and
- Increasing federal funding and eligibility for home and community based services, and other options to help Americans to better plan for their future long-term care needs and receive services to help them live in their own homes and stay out of costly institutions.

AARP also sought to achieve improvements to the health care delivery system, in order to control costs, such as:

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- Delivery system reforms to reward quality (not quantity) of care;
- Greater use of evidence-based medicine;
- Promotion of wellness and prevention; and
- Better coordination of care, especially for those with chronic conditions.

With that framework in mind, we now provide responses to Requests 4 and 5.

4. **All written communications, including e-mail, regarding reforms or changes to the health care system between any employee or representative of AARP and any employee, detailee, or any other representative of the WHOHR, the White House, or HHS.**

Attached bearing Bates numbers AARP.EC-000019 to AARP.EC-000020 is a letter that AARP sent to President Obama on February 19, 2010 regarding health system reform.

5. **All written communications, including e-mail, regarding reforms or changes to the health care system between or among the employees or representatives of AARP, or between any employee or representative of AARP and any employee or representative of AARP's members.**

AARP communicates with its members through a variety of media. One of these vehicles is the *AARP Bulletin*. Attached bearing Bates Numbers AARP.EC-000021 to AARP.EC-000132 are copies of the *Bulletin* from March 2, 2009 to March 23, 2010 that contain articles setting forth AARP's positions on health system reform.

AARP also communicated with its members (and the public) by issuing press releases on health care system reform, which were posted to its website. Relevant press releases from March 2, 2009 to March 23, 2010 are attached bearing Bates numbers AARP.EC-000135 to AARP.EC-000338. As you will see, these releases conveyed information about AARP's core principles of health system reform. Similarly, AARP wrote a number of letters to the editor in newspapers across the country in order to communicate with its members. Letters to the editor from March 2, 2009 to March 23, 2010 relating to health care reform are attached bearing Bates numbers AARP.EC-000339 to AARP.EC-000385.

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AARP will continue to work with your staff to respond to this inquiry and plans to supplement this production with responses to other elements of your inquiry. As we continue to provide answers and documents, we may determine that our answers provided today to questions 4 and 5 require supplementing, and we will provide additional materials should this be necessary to provide the Committee with complete and accurate responses.

Sincerely,



Raymond V. Shepherd, III

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health