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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 8, 2006

Citizens Health Care Working Group
Des Moines Community Meeting
The Botanical Center
Des Moines, IA 50316

Dear Participants of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group Discussion:

Thank you all for your participation in the Citizens' Health Care Working Group conversation on one of our nation's most important issues: health care. I am sorry that I am not able be with you all to take part in this discussion. Please know that I look forward to learning more about your conversation and the issues that arise from it.

This is an exciting opportunity for Iowans and I am pleased that you all have taken the time to contribute to this national discussion. It is very important for lawmakers to hear directly from their constituents about the issues that affect them. Today's meeting, along with the others held around the country, will help both Members of Congress and the President better understand the issues that are on the forefront of Americans' minds.

As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I was very involved with the creation of the Medicare Modernization Act and supported the provision that created this group. The provision also requires that the Senate Finance Committee and four other Congressional committees hold hearings on recommendations that come from these meetings. The Finance Committee is very interested in health care issues and the recommendations of this Group will help us continue our dialogue and help in the development of legislation to address the issues you identify.

Again, I thank you for your participation in this conversation and regret I am not able to join you.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senator