

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2008

Mr. Kerry Weems
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20201

SENT VIA FAX: 202.690.6262

Dear Mr. Weems:

We are contacting you today to urge you to reconsider the proposed national coverage determination (NCD) with coverage with evidence development (CED) for cardiac computed tomography angiography (CCTA) (CAG 00385N). We do not believe that the proposed NCD is reflective of the most current scientific evidence in support of CCTA 64-slice technology.

CCTA is currently used with 99% accuracy in over 2,000 centers nationwide. It has been widely accepted by the medical community as a proven technology for diagnosing heart disease. We believe that the NCD was drafted without consideration of the data from numerous studies documenting the effectiveness of CCTA.

Further, the local coverage determination process among Medicare contractors has effectively and adequately addressed coverage issues, as evidenced by the fact that all 50 states have policies in place for coverage of CCTA.

Denying coverage of CCTA will limit beneficiaries' access to this valuable technology, which will ultimately require more costly invasive procedures. As Members of Congress, we are extremely concerned about the effect the proposed coverage requirements for CCTA will have on the ability of Medicare beneficiaries in our constituencies and nationwide to access this important diagnostic imaging tool.


Again, we urge you to reconsider this proposed coverage decision and to work with the relevant professional societies, including the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography and the American College of Cardiology, to better develop criteria for coverage, and to minimize the negative impact on patient care.


Thank you for your consideration of this matter and we appreciate your prompt response.

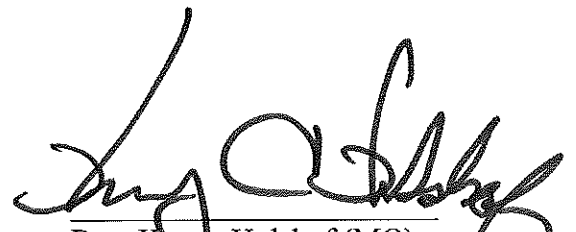
Sincerely,



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Rep. Gene Green (TX)



Rep. Brian Higgins (NY)


Rep. Kenny Hulshof (MO)


Rep. Marsha Blackburn (TN)



Rep. Michael Conaway (TX)


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Rep. Peter King (NY)


Rep. Kendrick Meek (FL)



Rep. Kenny Marchant (TX)


Rep. Mark Kirk (IL)


Rep. Charles Boustany (LA)



Rep. Thomas Allen (ME)

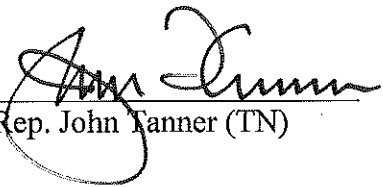

Rep. Barbara Cubin (WY)


Rep. Lois Capps (CA)

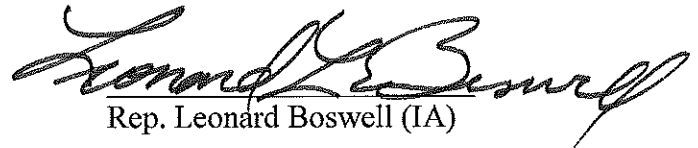

Rep. Steve Kagen (WI)


Rep. Michael Castle (DE)


Rep. Bobby Scott (VA)

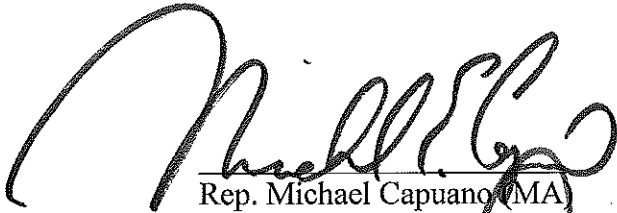

Rep. John Tanner (TN)


Rep. Jim Matheson (UT)

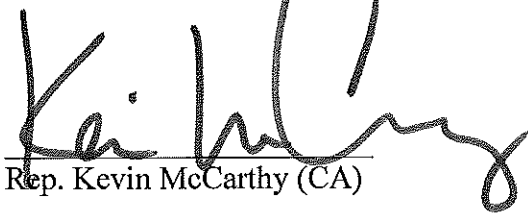

Rep. Leonard Boswell (IA)

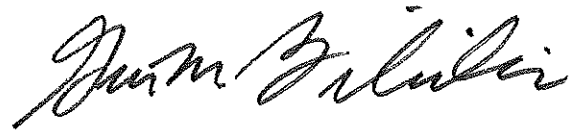

Rep. Zach Wamp (TN)



Rep. Pete Sessions (TX)

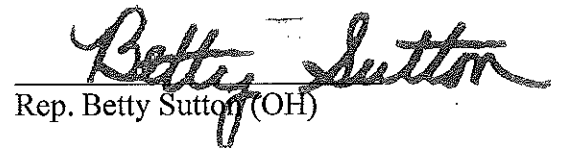

Rep. Michael Capuano (MA)


Rep. Randy Kuhl (NY)


Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA)

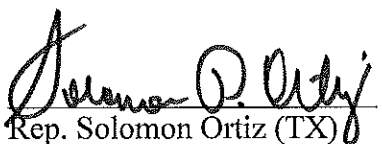

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL)


Rep. Dennis Moore (KS)


Rep. Betty Sutton (OH)

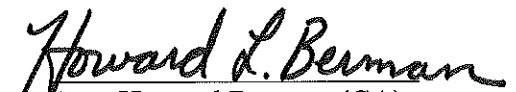

Rep. Michael Michaud (ME)



Rep. William Jefferson (LA)



Rep. Solomon Ortiz (TX)

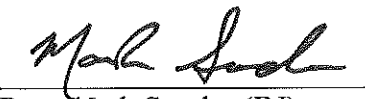

Rep. Ed Towns (NY)


Rep. Elijah Cummings (MD)

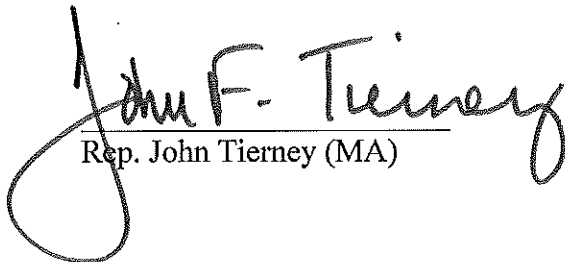

Rep. Howard Berman (CA)



Rep. Barney Frank (MA)



Rep. Wally Herger (CA)

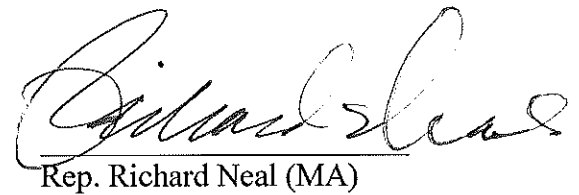

Rep. Mark Souder (IN)


Rep. Niki Tsongas (MA)


Rep. John Tierney (MA)

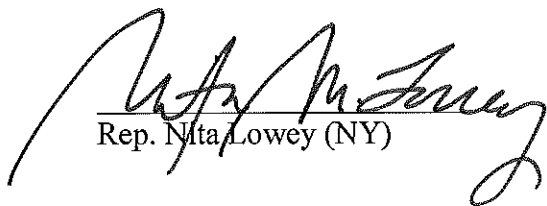

Rep. Michael McNulty (NY)

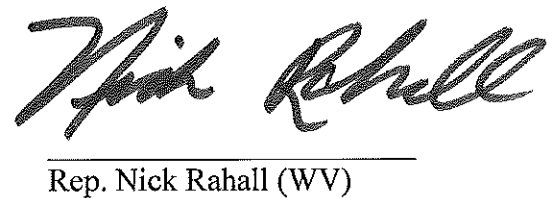

Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (MD)

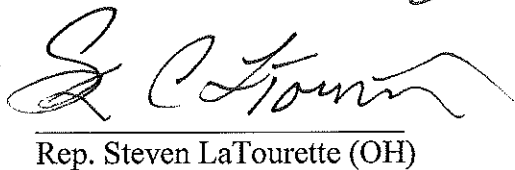

Rep. Richard Neal (MA)


Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY)

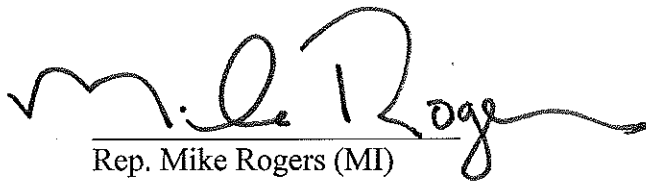

Rep. Phil English (PA)


Rep. Nita Lowey (NY)

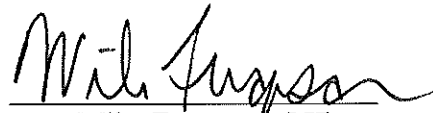

Rep. Nick Rahall (WV)



Rep. Steven LaTourette (OH)


Rep. Frank LoBiondo (NJ)



Rep. Mike Rogers (MI)



Rep. Charles Wilson (OH)


Rep. Mike Ferguson (NJ)


Rep. Tim Walberg (MI)

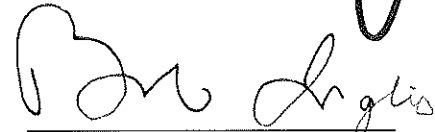

Rep. Jim Gerlach (PA)



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Rep. Randy Neugebauer (TX)



Rep. Ron Paul (TX)


Rep. Chip Pickering (MS)


Rep. Bob Inglis (SC)


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Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC)


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Rep. Vito Fossella (NY)

Ralph M. Hall
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Rep. John Olver (MA)

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Rep. Jon Porter (NV)

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Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD)

James McGovern
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Christopher Murphy
Rep. Christopher Murphy (CT)

Rick Larsen
Rep. Rick Larsen (WA)

Charles Gonzalez
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Mike Capuano
Rep. Mike Capuano (MA)
