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March 9, 2009

Senator Carl Levin
269 Russell Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2202

Senator Debbie Stabenow
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2202

Re: Home and Community Services Copayment Equity Act of 2009

Dear Senator Levin and Senator Stabenow:

I am writing to request your support for the Home and Community Services Co-payment Equity Act of 2009 that was recently introduced by Senator Bill Nelson and various bipartisan co-sponsors. The purpose of the Act is to provide dually eligible individuals (those receiving both Medicaid and Medicare services) living in home and community based settings with the same prescription drug benefits as provided under Medicare Part D.

The Act will exempt dually eligible individuals living in home and community settings from prescription drug co-payments. Currently, under Medicare Part D, only individuals living in skilled nursing facilities are exempt from prescription drug co-payments. This change is necessary, as assisted living is one of the fastest growing long-term care options for the elderly and disabled.

Please support the Home and Community Services Co-payment Equity Act. The Act has the potential to positively benefit the lives of individuals with disabilities and the elderly. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

**PATRICIA E. KEFALAS DUDEK
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