

The Council for Affordable Health Insurance



October 18, 2006

The Honorable Eric Cantor
U.S. House of Representatives
329 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Cantor:

On behalf of the Council for Affordable Health Insurance (CAHI), we are writing to express our support for H.R. 6134, the Health Opportunity Patient Empowerment Act of 2006. CAHI was organized in 1992 as a research and advocacy organization devoted to positive, market-based health care reforms that preserve freedom of choice for individuals and encourage a competitive health insurance market.

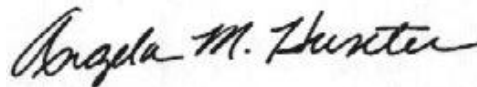
H.R. 6134 seeks to simplify, clarify and enhance Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), making this health insurance option more user friendly for health care consumers. The bill would simplify and increase the annual limit on HSA contributions to \$2,700 for individuals and \$5,450 for families. Additionally, it would allow the maximum contribution to an HSA, even if enrolled mid-year. In order to build -up health care savings, it allows a one-time transfer of funds from an individual retirement account to an HSA without tax penalty. Finally, the legislation would allow employers to make higher contributions to an HSA for non-highly compensated employees.

The Health Opportunity Patient Empowerment Act makes simple, common sense changes to Health Savings Accounts that will benefit many Americans. We commend you for introducing this legislation and Chairman Bill Thomas for moving it forward in this Congress. We look forward to working with you for the bills passage.

Sincerely,



Merrill Matthews
Director



Angela M. Hunter
Director of Federal Affairs

cc: Rep. Bill Thomas, Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee