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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
October 29, 1987

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MERCHANT MARINE
PANAMA CANAL AND THE
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL

Dr. Hector Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Thank you for contacting me regarding regulations which encourage Medicare recipients to obtain medical treatments from a limited number of physicians. As always, I welcome hearing from individuals in my District on the practical effects of Federal regulations.

In response to your letter, I contacted the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) at the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. HCFA has jurisdiction over the Medicare program, and explained that current policies are designed to bring additional physicians into the Medicare program so they can treat Medicare recipients. One method utilized by HCFA to attract physicians into Medicare is to refer recipients to physicians who agree to accept Medicare payments as full payment for their services. I understand that an expansion of this initiative may be included in the Fiscal Year 1989 budget. The Congress will carefully review any efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to limit patient choice of physicians. Our senior citizens deserve the right to be treated by a physician with whom they feel most comfortable, and physicians should be adequately reimbursed for their services.

Once again, thank you for letting me know of your interest in this issue. If you have any other concerns with which I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Solomon P. Ortiz
Member Of Congress

SPO/tvz

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN BRYANT
5TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

October 30, 1987

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bryant St.
Corpus Christi, TX 78408

Dear Dr. Garcia,

Thanks again for attending my recent briefing on the Veterans' Agent Orange Disability Act and for your concern with the problems facing your brothers who served in Vietnam.

I'm enclosing a summary of the bill for your information. As we discussed at the meeting, the bill was subsequently completed and introduced in Congress. Sponsors are myself, Lane Evans (D-Mass.) and James Jeffords (R-Vt.) in the House and John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Tom Daschle (D-S.Dakota) in the Senate. We are currently enlisting co-sponsors.

Again, I urge you as strongly as I can to keep members of the House and Senate aware of the problems Agent Orange victims are having with the Veterans Administration, both through direct contact and through your Washington lobbyists. And please let them know your thoughts on this bill.

Please call on me when I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



John Bryant

P.S. -- You may receive a second letter on this, as I'm sending a mass mailing on the bill to all Texas Vietnam veterans I've previously identified. But because of the interest you showed by attending the meeting, I wanted you to get this summary of the legislation at the earliest possible time.