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October 9, 2003

The Honorable Michael Bilirakis
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

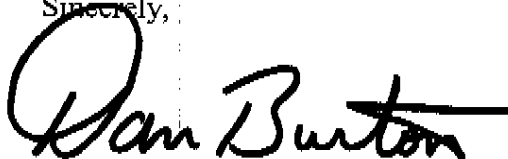
Dear Chairman Bilirakis:

On May 14, 2003, "*The Access to Medical Treatment Act*" (H.R. 2085) was referred to your Subcommittee. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights & Wellness, I am writing to request that you schedule a mark-up of H.R. 2085 at the earliest convenient time. As you know, H.R. 2085 would allow patients easier access to life-saving medical treatments that are not yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

I am a Co-Sponsor of H.R. 2085, the "*Access to Medical Treatment Act*", because it supports patient choice while maintaining important safeguards. The bill requires individuals who administer alternative and complementary treatments be licensed physicians or practitioners who are trained in any therapies administered to patients; require health practitioners to fully explain any health benefits or side effects to patients and have them sign a thorough informed consent document before any treatments are administered; and establishes reporting requirements for any therapies administered under this legislation.

There is a real need for Congressional action on H.R. 2085. This bill would better integrate traditional and complementary medicines to provide the highest possible quality of care for patients in America. I thank you in advance for your personal consideration to my request.

Sincerely,



Dan Burton
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Human Rights & Wellness