

December 2, 2006



The Board of Directors of the Medical Fitness Association, an affiliate of the American Hospital Association, supports without qualification the Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act (S.3963) introduced by Sen. Craig Thomas of Wyoming. We implore Congress to work in a bi-partisan fashion to quickly pass this legislation and:

- Restore patient access to high quality, medically necessary health care services
- Restore the ability of physicians to practice medicine and hire and supervise the most qualified health care professionals
- Save money for the Medicare system by passing and implementing this law

Medical fitness centers are defining the future of professionally administered health and fitness services to an aging population. Serving over 3 million members, the majority of medical fitness centers are hospital based, and all are dedicated to improving outcomes for patients with chronic diseases and multiple risk factors. As Medicare turns its attention to reducing costs through selective disease prevention programs, it must also approve of therapy providers who specialize in working with active seniors. These centers rely on many types of health care and wellness professionals to provide medically appropriate services. They have proven they can provide a continuum of care, fulfill the mission of their sponsoring institution, and be financially viable in a variety of communities. The pioneers in the medical fitness industry believe the future of hospitals and healthcare organizations is in improving the health status of the communities they serve. Preventing disease is the key to the future.

Respectively Submitted,

Cary Wing, EdD
Executive Director
www.medicalfitness.org