

EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
FINANCE
INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

2133 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2836

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1508 JOHN F. KENNEDY BUILDING
BOSTON, MA 02203
(617) 565-2900

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 1991

Mr. John E. Flynn
Deputy City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Cambridge City Council resolution regarding Medicare funding. It was good to hear from you.

I strongly share your views about cuts to Medicare. I voted against the proposed budget package on October 4, 1990, because it targeted Medicare for the largest hits in its 25-year history. This budget package (which was rejected by Congress) would have cut \$60 billion over the next five years from Medicare.

President Bush released his budget for Fiscal Year 1992 on February 4, 1991. Unfortunately, his budget proposed an additional \$25 billion in cuts to the Medicare program over the next five years, on top of the reductions agreed to in the 5-year compromise budget agreement on October 27, 1990. These additional cuts are unacceptable and in violation of last year's budget agreement. Further cuts will place a bigger burden on the nation's providers and seniors. The Medicare budget is already stretched to the limit and additional cuts could seriously jeopardize the availability and quality of care provided in the program. Please be assured that my commitment to preserving Medicare remains firm.

On April 17, 1991, I supported and the House passed H.Con.Res 121, the Congressional Budget Resolution for FY 1992. Included in the budget package was language rejecting the President's \$25 billion Medicare budget cuts. Instead, H.Con.Res. 121 also assumes an increase in discretionary spending of \$177 million above the FY 1991 level for Medicare administrative expenses, \$160 million more than the President's request, in order to permit faster and more accurate processing of Medicare claims, which would reduce costs in the long run. Also included in the Congressional budget resolution is language which provides an increase of \$246 million for Social Security program administration, which would improve the timeliness and accuracy of services to beneficiaries.

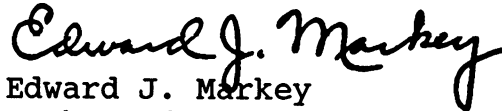
I was pleased to support the Congressional budget resolution because it channeled funds to those who survive on limited

Mr. Flynn
September 17, 1991
Page 2

incomes and would be intensely affected by decreases in program funding. Medicare and Social Security are fundamental cornerstones of social-welfare policy in this country and it is wrong to try to balance the budget on the backs of elderly and others who benefit from these programs. I remain firmly committed to ensuring that Social Security and Medicare benefits are not reduced and that we fulfill our commitment to the nation's senior citizens.

I appreciate hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me again if I can be of additional help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "M".

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

2.
S-1081
CONSENT COMMUNICATIONS

Communication received from Congressman Edward J. Markey in appreciation for the resolution sent to him by the City Council regarding Medicare funding.

In City Council,

October 7, 1991

Placed on file