NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER
Thirty years of EXPANDING THE POSSIBILITIES

May 24, 2005

The Honorable Pete Stark
House of Representatives
239 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Stark,

I am writing to express the National Women's Law Center's strong support for the Medicare Early Access Act of 2005. This Bill is a major step in securing health care coverage for older women who are in urgent need of affordable, quality health insurance.

The Medicare Early Access Act is a timely piece of legislation that will aid the large number of older women who are too young to qualify for Medicare but are often unable to find reasonable health coverage through employers or the individual insurance market. With nearly one in ten older Americans who fall into this age range spending close to ten percent of their income on health related expenses, the buy-in option will offer much needed relief and ensure that more of our citizens are getting the health care they need.

We would like to thank you for introducing this important legislation, which we believe will help all generations of women. This Act brings us much closer to reaching the goal of achieving access to affordable, quality care for all of our citizens.

Very truly yours,

Judy Waxman
Vice President, Health and Reproductive Rights