

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

The Commissioner

October 2, 2007

The Honorable Charles W. Boustany
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Boustany:

Thank you for your letters dated June 28 and August 2, 2007, regarding the inclusion of information in the *Social Security Statement* about the Medicare program that would clarify misperceptions about Medicare and long-term care.

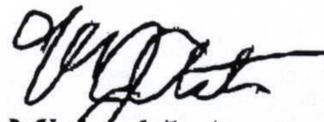
I am pleased to inform you that we are revising the language in the *Statement* to explain what Medicare does and does not cover. Specifically the revised language clarifies that Medicare helps pay for inpatient hospital care, nursing care, doctors' fees, drugs and other medical services and supplies. The explanation goes on to stipulate that Medicare does not pay for long-term care and advises readers that they may want to consider options for private insurance for that purpose.

The new language should help Americans plan more effectively for their future. This change will be shown on *Social Security Statements* mailed to American workers in the near future. At the same time, we will also update our "sample" *Social Security Statement* on the Social Security website (<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement/statsamples.htm>) to reflect the revised language.

I hope these revisions adequately address your concerns. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Margaret Hostetler, Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, at (202) 358-6030.

I have sent a similar letter to the other signers of the August 2, 2007 inquiry.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Astrue