

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
JEFF BINGAMAN, NEW MEXICO
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, NEW YORK
BARACK OBAMA, ILLINOIS
BERNARD SANDERS (I), VERMONT
SHERROD BROWN, OHIO

MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
LAMAR ALEXANDER, TENNESSEE
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
LISA MURKOWSKI, ALASKA
ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
PAT ROBERTS, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO
TOM COBURN, M.D., OKLAHOMA

J. MICHAEL MYERS, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
KATHERINE BRUNETT McGUIRE, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

<http://help.senate.gov>

December 15, 2008

Mr. Bertram Yaffe, President
New England Coalition for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
The Yaffe Foundation
2 Regency Plaza, Apartment 912
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Bert and NECON Conference Attendees:

I wish very much that I could join you for the 26th annual NECON Conference on Promoting Prevention. Needless to say, I look forward very much to working with you in the weeks ahead as we develop a new national health reform law proposal that includes disease prevention and health promotion as central features.

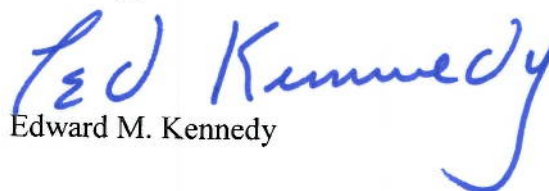
I recall well when NECON began in the 1980s, and I joined you in Fall River to draw attention to the importance of disease prevention and health promotion in reducing the unacceptable shortcomings in our nation's health care system.

You deserve great credit for your leadership on these fundamental issues. Because of your foresight, today's business and labor leaders, health providers and health insurers, and consumers and patients all recognize the vital and central role of prevention policy in creating a high quality health care system for the 21st century.

Thank you for your commitment to realistic and effective health care policy, and best wishes for your conference.

With great respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy