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**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

May 9, 2003

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Dear Friend:

Please join me to discuss what we can do to address end-of-life care needs.

Hometown Values Forum: Improving End-of-Life Care
May 29, 2003; 7:00-9:00 pm
Mitchell Auditorium, College of St. Scholastica
Duluth, Minnesota

Many Americans have been personally touched by the experience of caring for elderly parents, terminally ill spouses or children living out their final days. My own personal experience in these difficult situations has been that our health care system is a patchwork quilt of inadequate services that carry with them substantial expense and inconvenience.

I am committed to the challenge of supporting caregivers and of arranging health care services to meet the changing needs of the last phase of life. I plan to reintroduce legislation that seeks ways to improve end-of-life care, and would like to incorporate your input.

What changes must the federal government make to arrange and pay for services that can support the unprecedented numbers of aging Baby Boomers? How can we do a better job of supporting family caregivers? What are your personal experiences in care-giving and your thoughts on the challenges our country, our health care systems, and our health care professionals face in regard to end-of-life care?

Your thoughts on end-of-life care are critical as I work with my colleagues to reintroduce legislation in the 108th Congress. Please join me at this forum and feel free to pass this invitation along to whomever else you think would be interested in attending.

If you have any questions or wish to make a statement at the forum, please call my Duluth district office at (218) 727-7474 or send an email to kate.troy@mail.house.gov.

I hope to see you in Duluth on Thursday, May 29.

Sincerely,


James L. Oberstar, M.C.