

4/14/09

Dear Senator Feingold,

Thank you for coming to Chetek yesterday to listen. I found no disagreement with what you are doing until I opened the Wall Street Journal this morning and am frankly quite confused on a recent vote.

You voted with Senator Kyl R. AZ to prevent federal health programs from using comparative-effectiveness research to deny coverage. Pres. Obama was able to fund programs to get more comparative –effectiveness research. If we are going to control costs you must have some reason why you would allow someone to be covered in a federal health program for a treatment that is known to be inferior to another cheaper method or to use a drug that costs many time more than a cheaper drug that has equal effectiveness or more. On individual cases where there is a reason to use an inferior drug or treatment there are appeal procedures with Medicare that these items could be addressed. I await your explanation and thank you in advance for replying.

Regards,
FRED BANNISTER, M.D.