

September 1, 2009

Kathleen M. Stone, DPM
President-Elect
American Podiatric Medical Association
5605 W Eugie Ave, Suite 102
Glendale, Arizona 85304-1273

Dear Dr. Stone:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the comments I made during an interview with Fox News' Neil Cavuto on Wednesday, August 26, 2009.

Having reviewed the video of the interview, I feel it is necessary to issue an apology for giving the impression I believe podiatry equates to anything less than the important field I truly believe it to be or that I would consider the practice "esoteric." I respect the practice of podiatry and recognize the valuable and highly important work those in your field provide, particularly your work with those in the diabetic community. My poor choice of words was not intended to reflect negatively on the medical specialty you and thousands of others have spent years training for and in which you practice.

My intention was to indicate that government, both state and federal, should not make health insurance unaffordable by dictating an exhaustive list of mandates. It is my belief that Americans should have the option of selecting health insurance that meets their needs and the needs of their family. State-mandated coverage varies and is, in part, an explanation of why the cost of health insurance can vary from state to state. This issue is of great importance to me and has become increasingly relevant now that Congress is contemplating imposing additional, burdensome mandates on a national level – making insurance less affordable for many Americans.

Please extend my sincere apology to the members of the American Podiatric Medical Association. I look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

John Shadegg
Congressman
Arizona 3rd District
U.S. House of Representatives

JBS:lj