

January 25, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Michael R. Pence  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the nation's leading clinicians, employers, hospitals, biopharmaceutical companies, pharmacists, patients, consumer groups and insurance providers, we are writing to underscore our commitment to advancing the highest quality, most cost-effective healthcare system in the world. We call upon Congress and the Trump Administration to help us achieve this goal.

Healthcare has been operating in a fee-for-service system designed more than 50 years ago. Over the years, the regulations governing this system have grown extraordinarily complex. This complexity hampers efforts of clinicians and other healthcare providers who have been diligently working to measurably improve quality, reduce costs and take accountability for populations of patients. Despite these impediments, organizations have made significant investments in building and testing alternative payment models that are designed to move healthcare forward to promote value.

This work has been spurred by nearly two decades of bipartisan leadership and was most recently accelerated by this Congress' overwhelming passage of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). Through private and public sector alignment, the move toward value-based care is succeeding, measurably improving healthcare quality and contributing to historically low costs. Now is not the time for policymakers to signal a shift away from value-based care, either through action or inaction.

We, the undersigned, strongly support this movement and are committed to working with Congress and the Trump Administration to build the next generation of healthcare policy. As you take up the mantle of addressing the challenge of improving quality while safely reducing costs, we strongly urge you to continue focusing on driving value-based, patient-centered payment models that incent healthcare innovation. Together, we share a vision for a modernized, sustainable healthcare system based on the following principles:

- Empower and engage patients to make healthcare decisions with information and support from their healthcare team.
- Invest in engaging patients in the development of measures of provider performance that are relevant to them and consistently and transparently reported by all public and private payers.
- Improve clinician and provider access to timely, accurate and complete claims data to better facilitate care management.

- Recognize that the socioeconomic status of many patients creates challenges in providing care, and adjust payments to providers as appropriate.
- Design voluntary payment models that incent greater participation and achieve the highest quality and cost value based on patient choice and competitive markets.
- Expand the use of waivers from fee-for-service legal and regulatory requirements that impede collaboration and shared accountability, while preserving consumer protections and safeguards against fraud.
- Build on and expand payment models that promote collaborative financial and care coordination arrangements using incentives that align payers, healthcare providers, providers of long-term care services and clinicians.
- Appropriately incent access to medical innovations and treatments that hold the potential to improve quality of care and reduce overall system cost.
- Promote public and private investment in the transparent, evidence-based testing and scaling of new alternative payment models as directed in MACRA so that clinicians, other healthcare providers and payers can learn how payment models work and evolve in the clinical setting.
- Ensure alignment between private and public sector programs, which is critical to a sustainable value-based payment marketplace.

We stand prepared to work vigorously with the Administration and the Congress to expand upon the quality and cost savings progress made in America, and we look forward to taking the next steps to reach and surpass the tipping point where value-based healthcare becomes a sustainable marketplace for generations of Americans to come.

Sincerely,

Advocate Health Care	American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Foundation	American College of Surgeons
Aetna		American Hospital Association
Aledade, Inc.	American Academy of Pediatrics	American Medical Association
Alliance of Community Health Plans	American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	American Medical Group Association
American Academy of Cardiology	American College of Clinical Pharmacy	American Pharmacists Association
American Academy of Family Physicians	American College of Physicians	American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists	Blue Shield of California CAPG	Guthrie Country Hospital (Guthrie Center, IA)
American Society for Radiation Oncology	Catholic Health Association of the United States	Healthcare Financial Management Association
America's Essential Hospitals	Catholic Health Initiatives	Healthcare Leadership Council
Amgen	Centra Health	Health Care Transformation Task Force
AnMed Health (Anderson, SC)	Change Healthcare	HealthSouth
Anthem	Cleveland Clinic	Henry Ford Allegiance Health (Jackson, MI)
Ascension	Cone Health	Heritage Development Organization
Association of American Medical Colleges	Dartmouth-Hitchcock	Hudson River Healthcare
athenahealth	Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice	Humboldt County Memorial Hospital (Humboldt, IA)
Aurora Health Care (Milwaukee, WI)	Dignity Health	Inova Health System (Falls Church, VA)
Avera Health (Sioux Falls, SD)	East Alabama Medical Center (Opelika, AL)	Johnson & Johnson
Atrius Health	Einstein Healthcare Network (Philadelphia, PA)	LifeBridge Health (Baltimore, MD)
Banner Health (Phoenix, AZ)	Ephraim McDowell Health (Danville, KY)	Marshfield Clinic Health System (WI)
Baptist Health (Louisville, KY)	Evolut Health	McKesson Corporation
Billings Clinic (Billings, MT)	Fresenius Medical Care	Memorial Health (Savannah, GA)
Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts	Genesis Health System (Davenport, IA)	Merck
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan	Greenville Health System	Methodist Health System (Dallas, TX)
	Gross Electric	

MetroHealth System (Cleveland, OH)	Northwestern Memorial HealthCare (Chicago, IL)	Society for Vascular Surgery
Midwest Business Group on Health	OSF HealthCare System	SSM Health (St. Louis, MO)
Mosaic Life Care (St. Joseph, MO)	Pacific Business Group on Health	Summa Health System (Akron, OH)
National Alliance for Healthcare Purchasers	Partners HealthCare	Surescripts
National Association of ACOs	Partners in Care Foundation	Texas Health Resources (Arlington, TX)
National Coalition on Health Care	PatientPing	Trinity Health
National Consumers League	Pfizer, Inc.	Tucson Medical Center Healthcare
National Committee on Quality Assurance	Premier Inc.	United Auto Worker Retiree Medical Benefit Trust
National Health Council	Press Ganey Associates, Inc.	URAC
National Health Law Program	Providence Health and Services	Vantage Healthcare Network (Meadville, PA)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society	Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable	Vizient, Inc.
National Patient Advocate Foundation	Randolph Hospital (Asheboro, NC)	Washington State Health Care Authority
National Physicians Alliance	Regional Medical Center (Manchester, IA)	
National Rural Health Association	Remedy Partners	
New Mexico Health Connection	sanofi	
North American Spine Society	SCAN Health Plan	
	SCL Health	
	Society of Thoracic Surgeons	