

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

Aetna

Aledade, Inc.

Alliance of Community Health Plans

American Academy of Cardiology

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Nursing

American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Foundation

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Physicians

American College of Surgeons

American Hospital Association

American Medical Association

American Medical Group Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Pharmacists Association

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

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

Washington State Health
Care Authority