

January 25, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader Pelosi:

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 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 Cardiology

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Physicians

American College of Surgeons	athenahealth	Dartmouth-Hitchcock
American Hospital Association	Aurora Health Care (Milwaukee, WI)	Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice
American Medical Association	Avera Health (Sioux Falls, SD)	Dignity Health
American Medical Group Association	Atrius Health	East Alabama Medical Center (Opelika, AL)
American Osteopathic Association	Banner Health (Phoenix, AZ)	Einstein Healthcare Network (Philadelphia, PA)
American Pharmacists Association	Baptist Health (Louisville, KY)	Ephraim McDowell Health (Danville, KY)
American Society of Anesthesiologists	Billings Clinic (Billings, MT)	Evolent Health
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts	Fresenius Medical Care
American Society for Radiation Oncology	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan	Genesis Health System (Davenport, IA)
America's Essential Hospitals	Blue Shield of California	Greenville Health System
Amgen	CAPG	Gross Electric
AnMed Health (Anderson, SC)	Catholic Health Association of the United States	Guthrie County Hospital (Guthrie Center, IA)
Anthem	Catholic Health Initiatives	Healthcare Financial Management Association
Ascension	Centra Health	Healthcare Leadership Council
Association for Community Affiliated Plans	Change Healthcare	Health Care Transformation Task Force
Association of American Medical Colleges	Cleveland Clinic	HealthSouth
	Coalition to Transform Advanced Care	Henry Ford Allegiance Health (Jackson, MI)
	Cone Health	

Heritage Development Organization	National Association of ACOs	Partners HealthCare
Hudson River Healthcare	National Coalition on Health Care	Partners in Care Foundation
Humboldt County Memorial Hospital (Humboldt, IA)	National Consumers League	PatientPing
Inova Health System (Falls Church, VA)	National Committee on Quality Assurance	Pfizer, Inc.
Johnson & Johnson	National Health Council	Premier Inc.
LifeBridge Health (Baltimore, MD)	National Health Law Program	Press Ganey Associates, Inc.
Marshfield Clinic Health System (WI)	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	Providence Health and Services
McKesson Corporation	National Partnership for Hospice Innovation	Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable
Memorial Health (Savannah, GA)	National Patient Advocate Foundation	Randolph Hospital (Asheboro, NC)
Mended Little Hearts	National Physicians Alliance	Regional Medical Center (Manchester, IA)
Merck	National Rural Health Association	Remedy Partners
Methodist Health System (Dallas, TX)	New Mexico Health Connection	sanofi
MetroHealth System (Cleveland, OH)	North American Spine Society	SCAN Health Plan
Midwest Business Group on Health	Northwestern Memorial HealthCare (Chicago, IL)	SCL Health
Mosaic Life Care (St. Joseph, MO)	OSF HealthCare System	Silicon Valley Employers Forum
National Alliance for Healthcare Purchasers	Pacific Business Group on Health	Society of Thoracic Surgeons
		Society for Vascular Surgery
		SSM Health (St. Louis, MO)

Summa Health System
(Akron, OH)

Surescripts

Texas Health Resources
(Arlington, TX)

Trinity Health

Tucson Medical Center
Healthcare

UAW Retiree Medical
Benefits Trust

URAC

Vantage Healthcare
Network (Meadville, PA)

Vizient, Inc.

Washington State Health
Care Authority