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  American Academy of Nursing  American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Aetna  American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  American College of Cardiology

Aledade, Inc.  Foundation

Alliance of Community Health Plans  American Academy of Pediatrics  American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American Academy of Family Physicians  American College of Physicians
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Heritage Development Organization
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Humboldt County Memorial Hospital (Humboldt, IA)
Inova Health System (Falls Church, VA)
Johnson & Johnson
LifeBridge Health (Baltimore, MD)
Marshfield Clinic Health System (WI)
McKesson Corporation
Memorial Health (Savannah, GA)
Mended Little Hearts
Merck
Methodist Health System (Dallas, TX)
MetroHealth System (Cleveland, OH)
Midwest Business Group on Health
Mosaic Life Care (St. Joseph, MO)
National Alliance for Healthcare Purchasers

National Association of ACOs
National Coalition on Health Care
National Consumers League
National Committee on Quality Assurance
National Health Council
National Health Law Program
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Partnership for Hospice Innovation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Physicians Alliance
National Rural Health Association
New Mexico Health Connection
North American Spine Society
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare (Chicago, IL)
OSF HealthCare System
Pacific Business Group on Health

Partners HealthCare
Partners in Care Foundation
PatientPing
Pfizer, Inc.
Premier Inc.
Press Ganey Associates, Inc.
Providence Health and Services
Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable
Randolph Hospital (Asheboro, NC)
Regional Medical Center (Manchester, IA)
Remedy Partners
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SCAN Health Plan
SCL Health
Silicon Valley Employers Forum
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