



March 6, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your leadership at such a critical juncture for our nation. Yesterday's White House Summit on Health Care Reform, the recent passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act and the American Recovery and Renewal Act are bold steps towards maintaining and improving access to quality, affordable health care in the United States. These are important steps toward the comprehensive health care reform we need.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is dedicated to improving the quality of care delivered to all Americans. Today, far too many patients do not receive the evidence-based care that is needed to protect and improve their health and quality of life. Comprehensive health care reform can begin to change this for the better by:

- Making health plans and health care providers accountable for the quality and efficiency of the care they deliver;
- Reforming our health care delivery system to make care coordination and primary care a priority — and reforming the payment system to recognize those priorities;
- Promoting the use of health information technology to bring our antiquated health care administration systems into the 21st century; and
- Investing in evidence stewardship and quality measurement based on evidence to speed advances in care from the laboratory bench to the patient's bedside.

NCQA stands ready to work with the Administration leaders of the 111th Congress to make these reform ideas a reality. We have enclosed further details on each of these priorities for your information. We would be happy to meet with your advisors to discuss these and other ideas as you move forward on your commitment to improving health care in America.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment in this critical area of public policy.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. O'Kane
President

Enclosures