



For Immediate Release  
October 8, 2009

Contact: Carol Andes  
202-741-5586

## HEALTH CARE COALITION EXPANDS SIGNIFICANTLY, RENEWS PUSH FOR REFORM IN 2009

*American Medical Association, Families USA, Federation of American Hospitals and PhRMA announce 15 new organizational allies*

(Washington, D.C.) – The Americans for Stable Quality Care (ASQC) coalition today launched an aggressive and expanded campaign to secure passage of meaningful health reform in 2009. This historic effort has now grown to include 19 diverse leading organizations from across the health care spectrum:

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Nursing
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
- American Academy of Physician Assistants
- American College of Nurse Practitioners
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Medical Association
- American Osteopathic Association
- Biotechnology Industry Organization
- Families USA
- Federation of American Hospitals
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Coalition For Promoting Physical Activity
- National Consumers League
- National Council of Women's Organizations
- PhRMA
- YMCA of the USA

The coalition's latest endeavor is a robust, integrated public affairs campaign, which makes the case for health care reform and focuses on generating support throughout the country for action in Washington. ASQC's efforts include the full complement of media relations, thought leadership, paid advertising, grassroots advocacy and online organizing.

**Note to reporters:** Following is a list of quotes from coalition members. Please direct questions to ASQC.

*“Family physicians are on the front line of health care. We see the fallout of our currently broken system — patients who postpone or forgo needed health care because they have no insurance, patients whose medical bills threaten them with bankruptcy, patients who have become lost in the complex maze of health care services.*”

*“The American Academy of Family Physicians has long called for comprehensive health care reform, and becoming a member of the Americans for Stable Quality Care coalition is an important part of our efforts. As a coalition we can present a united voice in support of much needed health system reform.”*

Ted Epperly, M.D.  
President  
**American Academy of Family Physicians**

*“Nursing's leading experts joined this effort because we believe patients and their families deserve quality, affordable, evidenced-based health care services. We must seize this moment to take the first step towards this reality by passing national health care insurance reform. Consumers trust nurses to do the right thing.”*

Pat Ford-Roegner, MSW, RN, FAAN  
Chief Executive Officer  
**American Academy of Nursing**

*“Congressional consideration of health care reform occurs rarely. AAPA has a longstanding history of advocating on behalf of affordable, cost-effective, quality care for all Americans, and now is the time to make that policy a reality.”*

Bill Leinweber  
Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer  
**American Academy of Physician Assistants**

*“The American College of Physicians (ACP) recognizes that all Americans need health care coverage with increased choices and increased security. They must know that coverage will not be withheld because of pre-existing conditions and not lost because of the development of an illness. They also need safeguards to prevent the cost of health care from bankrupting the family.*”

*“Within our grasp is the achievement of health reform legislation that makes coverage affordable by building upon and improving our current employer-based system, providing incentives for young doctors to go into primary care, and improving health care delivery to get better value for the patient.*”

*“ACP is proud to join the Americans for Stable Quality Care, a coalition of nearly two dozen organizations that is working to make certain that this unique opportunity does not slip away.”*

Joseph W. Stubbs, MD, FACP  
President  
**American College of Physicians**

*"Current health care reform proposals under consideration in the US Senate would put prevention within the reach of every American, strengthen our communities by reducing preventable disease and disability, and provide our children with a strong foundation for lifelong health. Policymakers across the political spectrum now agree that more must be done to prevent disease and promote health. Health care legislation moving through the US Senate embodies this agreement by increasing the awareness, availability, and utilization of prevention and health promotion programs across the entire health care continuum."*

Michael Barry, CAE.  
Executive Director  
**American College of Preventive Medicine**

*"Dedicated physicians work in a fragmented system to provide high quality patient care, and the AMA believes we can improve the system for patients and physicians. Our participation in this coalition is an extension of our commitment to achieving health reform this year that provides all Americans with affordable, high-quality health coverage."*

J. James Rohack, M.D.  
President  
**American Medical Association**

*"The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) is committed to ensuring access to affordable health coverage for all Americans; fundamentally reforming the health care delivery system; growing the physician workforce to meet demand and promote primary care and general surgery; promoting individual investments in health through prevention, wellness, and public health; and creating an equitable health care financing structure. The AOA looks forward to working with Americans for Stable Quality Care and all committed groups to enact meaningful health care reform legislation this year."*

Larry A. Wickless, D.O.  
President  
**American Osteopathic Association**

*“As the nation’s largest organization representing people living with mental illness and their families, NAMI is pleased to be a part of ASQC. We are now at a critical juncture in the health care reform debate. It is imperative that Congress act now on health reform legislation. We cannot allow this historic opportunity to be squandered.”*

Michael Fitzpatrick  
Executive Director  
**National Alliance on Mental Illness**

*“Our members are dedicated to improving the health of children through coordinated and consistent access to comprehensive, family-centered, culturally effective care, and evidence-based care. We support the broad principles of the American for Stable Quality Care and are standing up for children’s health and health care reform now.”*

Michelle Beauchesne  
President  
**National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners**

*“The National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity has a real interest in making sure that health care reform and physical activity are viewed as integrally related. Lack of physical activity has contributed heavily to the millions of Americans currently suffering from chronic diseases-increasing daily physical activity, especially combined with other prevention measures could significantly reduce the number of those being diagnosed as well as aid in the management of those currently suffering from a variety of chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. We favor a health care reform bill that not only includes but embraces prevention and healthy lifestyles.”*

Sheila Franklin  
Executive Director  
**National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity**

*“As the nation’s oldest consumer organization, the National Consumers League (NCL) believes health reform is long overdue in this country. The health care system is broken and is in dire need of reform – we need to increase access, make the system affordable to all citizens, and improve quality of care. NCL is pleased to join forces with such a diverse group to express our support for reform.”*

Sally Greenberg  
Executive Director  
**National Consumers League**

*“The YMCA of the USA supports comprehensive health care reform that puts a strong emphasis on preventing chronic disease and keeping Americans healthy. ASQC is a unique combination of unlikely partners that recognize that we must maintain the tremendous work done so far, the opportunity at hand, and momentum for consensus health reform. By raising our collective voice, we can make comprehensive health care reform a reality.”*

Audrey Tayse Haynes  
Senior Vice President & Chief Government Affairs Officer  
**YMCA of the USA**

###