

January 25, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman, Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, HELP Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, and Chairmen Baucus, Harkin, Rangel, Waxman, Miller:

On behalf of the 300,000 physician and medical student members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians, and the American Osteopathic Association, we are writing to express our continued support for enactment of legislation to provide Americans with access to affordable health insurance coverage, to implement workforce and payment reforms to help ensure a sufficient supply of primary care physicians and other specialties facing shortages, to accelerate funding of-- and create positive incentives for-- innovative models to improve the delivery of care including Patient-Centered Medical Homes, to put a permanent end to the cycle of Medicare physician payment cuts created by the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, and to support alternatives to the current medical liability tort system.

Our organizations appreciate your leadership in advancing legislation, in both the House and Senate, that advance many of the above elements--each of which we believe is essential to achieving a sustainable, affordable and high quality health care system for all Americans. We urge Congress and the administration to complete the task by seeking agreement on a legislative pathway to ensure that essential reforms, consistent with the above policies, are enacted into law.

Yours truly,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
American Osteopathic Association