January 25, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Michael R. Pence
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Vice President:

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 Cardiology

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 Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Physicians

American College of Surgeons

American Hospital Association

American Medical Association

American Medical Group Association

American Pharmacists Association

American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

American Society for Radiation Oncology

America's Essential Hospitals

Amgen

AnMed Health (Anderson, SC)

Anthem

Ascension

Association of American Medical Colleges

athenahealth

Aurora Health Care (Milwaukee, WI)

Avera Health (Sioux Falls, SD)

Atrius Health

Banner Health (Phoenix, AZ)

Baptist Health (Louisville, KY)

Billings Clinic (Billings, MT)

Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Blue Shield of California

CAPG

Catholic Health Association of the United States

Catholic Health Initiatives

Centra Health

Change Healthcare

Cleveland Clinic

Cone Health

Dartmouth-Hitchcock

Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice

Dignity Health

East Alabama Medical Center (Opelika, AL)

Einstein Healthcare Network (Philadelphia, PA)

Ephraim McDowell Health (Danville, KY)

Evolent Health

Fresenius Medical Care

Genesis Health System (Davenport, IA)

Greenville Health System

Gross Electric

Guthrie Country Hospital (Guthrie Center, IA)

Healthcare Financial Management Association

Healthcare Leadership Council

Health Care Transformation Task Force

HealthSouth

Henry Ford Allegiance Health (Jackson, MI)

Heritage Development Organization

Hudson River Healthcare

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)

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 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

sanofi

SCAN Health Plan

SCL 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

United Auto Worker Retiree Medical Benefit Trust

URAC

Vantage Healthcare Network (Meadville, PA)

Vizient, Inc.

Washington State Health Care Authority