

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

Improving Quality, Lowering Costs: The Role of Health Care Delivery System Reform
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
November 10, 2011

Our organizations, which represent over 310,300 physicians and the majority of all primary care physicians practicing in the United States, applaud the Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee for holding today's hearing "Improving Quality, Lowering Costs: The Role of Health Care Delivery System Reform."

Our organizations believe that one of the true opportunities that exist in our country today is the ability to reform our delivery system. This is driven by a renewed interest among the insurers and an assertive effort by the federal government through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to create new delivery models that improve quality and lower costs on per patient basis. We believe that a health care system built on access to continuous and comprehensive primary care services is best positioned to achieve these goals.

In 2006, our organizations, along with the American Academy of Pediatrics, came together to develop the Joint Principles for the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH). This document has served as the basis of a renewed movement in public and private health care systems to establish a new delivery model built on advanced primary care practices. Our organizations went on to partner with several other organizations to create the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC). The PCPCC is an organization of over 800 diverse organizations dedicated to advancing the PCMH and a health care system built on patients' access to comprehensive and continuous primary care services.

We are encouraged the CMMI is currently accepting letters of intent for the Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC) initiative, a multi-payer initiative fostering collaboration between public and private health care payers that will align all payers in support of primary care practices that are organized to provide coordinated care as patient centered medical homes.

Our organizations and members are highly optimistic of what the future holds for primary care as a result of delivery system reforms that have been implemented and those that are under development. None of these are more promising than the creation of advanced primary care practices through the patient centered medical home. This will result in achieving the goals of better health care delivery, better health outcomes for patients, and lower health care costs.

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