



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Hatch,

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Marilyn Tavenner as administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). ACP members include 133,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

As acting administrator for CMS, Marilyn Tavenner has shown her dedication to improving our health care system, ensuring patients have access to high quality care, and reducing health care costs. During her time as acting administrator, Ms. Tavenner has supported the important work of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). The CMMI has developed and piloted important programs and initiatives to test new payment and delivery models, such as the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative (CPCI). In addition, under her leadership, the CMMI continues to conduct research on best practices and engage a broad range of stakeholders to develop additional models for testing.

Ms. Tavenner's dedication to improving our delivery and payment systems, willingness to work with stakeholders, and test out new models was also demonstrated in the 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Under her leadership, CMS included a new set of codes focused on transitional care management services (TCM). The new reimbursement policies for TCM services will allow physicians and other qualified health care providers to coordinate Medicare beneficiaries' transitions from facility to non-facility settings. This is an enormous step forward in ensuring that patients receive the care they need and recognizing the important cognitive and coordinated care physicians provide. In addition, ACP applauds CMS and Ms. Tavenner for including in the 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule a recognition of the growing evidence behind higher quality care provided through an advanced primary care practice that has implemented a patient-centered medical home (PCMH).

As the acting administrator for CMS, Ms. Tavenner has proven to be an effective and thoughtful leader who is willing to work with stakeholders to achieve meaningful change in our health care

system. It is imperative that CMS continues to have a leader who understands our complex health care delivery system and is willing to work in partnership with stakeholders. The ACP is very pleased to support Marilyn Tavenner's nomination and looks forward to continuing to work with her on improving our health care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Bronson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

David L. Bronson, MD, FACP
President, American College of Physicians