

STAND FOR QUALITY

in Health Care

August 20, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U. S. Capitol
S-131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Capitol
S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Funding of Measure Development

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

On behalf of *Stand for Quality*, a coalition representing a diverse cross-section of health care organizations, consumers, and purchasers who are advocating for quality improvement and cost-effective delivery of health care, we thank you for including \$10 million in the AHRQ account for FY2011 for measure development activities.

Quality measures are critical tools for improving the quality and efficiency of health care. Because quality measurement affects all stakeholders across the continuum of health care, federal funding of measure development and testing is essential. The accompanying FY2011 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Committee Report specifically references Section 3013 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which calls for the identification of gaps in quality measurement and the development of patient-centered measures to fill those gaps. We respectfully request that your committee work to ensure that the \$10 million in AHRQ funding be fully committed for providing grants to eligible entities to develop and update quality measures to address specific health care populations and priorities.

Efficiently meeting the public's and health care system's demand for measures that meaningfully improve the quality of health care and maintaining these measures over time as evidence and technology evolve requires a well funded and transparent process and infrastructure. Appropriating \$10 million for this activity in FY2011 is an important first step in meeting this demand.

We thank you in advance for your continued efforts, and stand ready to work with you to promote funding for quality measure development in FY2011 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Members of the Stand for Quality Steering Committee

Janet M. Corrigan, Ph.D., M.B.A., President and Chief Executive Officer, National Quality Forum

Karen Ignagni, M.B.A., President and Chief Executive Officer, America's Health Insurance Plans

Charles N. Kahn III, M.P.H., President, Federation of American Hospitals

David Lansky, President and CEO, Pacific Business Group on Health

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Gerald M. Shea, Assistant to the President for Governmental Affairs, AFL-CIO

Richard J. Umbdenstock, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Hospital Association

CC: The Honorable Tom Harkin