



July 27, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell  
Chair, Committee on Energy & Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chair, Committee on Ways & Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chair, Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Stark  
Chair, Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Ways & Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Dingell, Rangel, Pallone, and Stark:

Thank you for your leadership in introducing the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 3162). Passage of this legislation assures that the very successful Children's Health Insurance program will continue after September 30, 2007. It gives states the resources they need to provide health care coverage to millions of uninsured children, with the child-centered benefits they need. CHAMP also allows new flexibility for coverage of children and pregnant women, allowing states to provide coverage to legal immigrant children and legal immigrant pregnant women.

In addition to these improvements, this bill is also a major step forward in improving the quality of health care. We strongly support your efforts to establish the National Quality Forum (NQF) as the national coordinating and standard-setting body for health care quality measurement and reporting, and are pleased that you have set aside funding to carry out the important responsibilities laid out in the bill, including:

- Establishing and managing an integrated national strategy and process for setting priorities and goals in establishing health care performance measures;
- Coordinating the development and specifications of such measures;
- Establishing standards for the development and testing of such measures; and
- Advancing the use of electronic health records for automating the collection, aggregation, and transmission of measurement information.

We believe that funding support for NQF represents a significant step toward ensuring better quality care for all Americans.

We also are pleased that the bill establishes a pediatric health quality measurement program, requiring:

- Development of pediatric quality measures on children's health care and health outcomes;
- Identification of disparities in child health and the provision of health care;
- Measures to assess overall program performance; and
- Technical assistance to states to facilitate these efforts.

As an organization that represents the nation's women and families, the National Partnership has advocated for over a decade for improvement in the quality of care available to families, especially lower income and minority families. We believe having reliable information about health care quality is key to this effort. Without such information, patients simply cannot make the best choices for themselves and their families.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important legislation and your commitment to improving the quality of health care. We look forward to working with you to help move these efforts forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ness", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Debra L. Ness  
President