

Friends of NQF

July 25, 2007

Dear Chairmen Dingell, Rangel, Stark and Pallone:

Thank you for your leadership in introducing the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (CHAMP H.R. 3162). The *Friends of NQF* Coalition strongly supports your efforts to establish the National Quality Forum as the national coordinating and standard-setting body for health care quality measurement and reporting.

Our country urgently needs a national performance measurement strategy and standardized performance measures to support quality improvement efforts, public reporting of comparative performance information, payment incentive programs, and oversight and accountability efforts. NQF is well positioned to perform the responsibilities you have identified in your 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;
- Endorsing national consensus health care measures; and
- Advancing the use of electronic health records for automating the collection, aggregation and transmission of measurement information.

We are pleased that you have set aside funding to carry out these responsibilities, and look forward to working with you throughout the process to secure additional resources to ensure NQF can meet the public's expectation on health care quality and measurement.

The provisions you have included in the CHAMP Act will represent a major step forward for health care quality. We applaud your efforts and you have the strong support of the *Friends of NQF* Coalition for this provision.



John Rother
AARP
Co-chair, Friends of NQF
Steering Committee



Charles N. Kahn III
Federation of American Hospitals
Co-Chair, Friends of NQF
Steering Committee

Friends of NQF Coalition Members:

- AARP
- AFL-CIO
- The American Health Quality Association
- America's Health Insurance Plans
- American Hospital Association
- American Medical Association
- American Nurses Association
- Baylor Health Care System
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association
- Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care
- Federation of American Hospitals
- General Motors
- Joint Commission
- National Business Coalition on Health
- National Center for Healthcare Leadership
- National Committee for Quality Assurance
- National Partnership for Women and Families
- Pacific Business Group on Health
- University of North Carolina Health Care System