

AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

June 21, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
835 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Senator Enzi:

On behalf of the members of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to strongly support President Obama's nomination of Donald M. Berwick, M.D., M.P.P., as administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Dr. Berwick has dedicated his career to improving the quality and safety of our nation's health care system, and will bring a wealth of knowledge and practical experience to CMS from his perspective as a physician, teacher and passionate advocate for high-quality care.

A founder of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), he has worked tirelessly toward improving outcomes for patients, achieving dramatic advances in quality, patient safety and performance improvement. IHI's innovative, collaborative approaches—which involve bringing together all members of the health care delivery team—have produced real breakthroughs in efforts to disseminate best practices and train health care professionals. His leadership has led to concrete improvements in efforts to reduce health care-associated infections and increase care coordination—yielding positive results for patients across the nation.

He also has served as an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and as chair of the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Dr. Berwick is a trusted and respected voice within the health care community. His knowledge of our health care delivery system and how it is influenced by the multiple forces of regulation, payment, transparency and public policy make him well-qualified to implement provisions in the recently enacted health reform law. Dr. Berwick's experiences from his lifelong quest to find better and safer ways to deliver care will greatly inform and enhance the implementation health care reform.

We look forward to working with Dr. Berwick to ensure safer, better and more collaborative care for patients and their communities.

Sincerely,

American Hospital Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Federation of American Hospitals
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
Premier, Inc.
VHA Inc.