

PARCA

Ensuring Patients' Access to Care

President-Elect Barack Obama
Executive Office of the President-Elect
451 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

The *Patients' Access to Responsible Care Alliance* (PARCA), comprised of organizations representing healthcare providers, wishes to congratulate you on your historic victory and offer our sincere thanks for your commitment to address the critical issue of national health reform.

As our organizations collectively represent the interests of hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals and the patients they serve, we are keenly aware of the many complex problems related to healthcare coverage, delivery, and costs that currently exist within the nation's healthcare system. As your administration proceeds with substantive efforts to vastly improve our current system and provide quality care to all Americans, we pledge our support for our commonly shared goals of expanding access to and affordability of quality healthcare services.

PARCA represents exclusively the views of healthcare professionals, we are aware that all too often policy makers and government leaders tend to center their attention almost exclusively on the concern of the medical doctor community, while overlooking the important role played by the large and diverse group of non-MD/DO providers that comprise a major part of our healthcare delivery system.

In today's delivery system, health plans routinely discriminate against whole classes of healthcare providers based solely on their licensure or certification. We believe such discrimination is not only wrong in principle, but is anti-competitive in nature, denies patient choice and access to a range of beneficial providers, and in general, results in a less than ideal and optimal delivery system.

As you go about the important work of improving the existing employer-based reimbursement system, and work to establish new protections related to pre-existing conditions, patient health status, transparency and other important features of reform, we request that you lend your support to the adoption of appropriate legislative provisions that would prevent existing healthcare plans, as well as any new federal plan, from discriminating against classes of healthcare providers with respect to plan participation, indemnification, and reimbursement based on the class of health provider, and the provider's licensure or certification.

The elimination of such discrimination and the establishment of a "level playing field" for all providers would more appropriately focus the provisioning of patient care towards

those issues dealing with the efficiency of care delivery and the important need to improve quality outcomes.

We look forward to working with your Administration and Congress to address the anti-discrimination issue in a comprehensive way and are preparing legislative language to address the issue.

Sincerely,

The Patients' Access to Responsible Care Alliance

- American Academy of Audiology
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- American Chiropractic Association
- American College of Nurse Midwives
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- American Optometric Association
- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Podiatric Medical Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- National Association of Social Workers

CC: Senator Tom Daschle
Senator Harry Reid
Senator Ted Kennedy
Senator Max Baucus
Representative Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
Representative Charlie Rangel
Representative Pete Stark
Representative Henry Waxman
Representative Frank Pallone

PARCA is a coalition of organizations that represent the interests of millions of patients and non-MD/DO healthcare providers. It aims to provide federal policymakers with access to information from all areas of the healthcare community, in order to assist in the formulation of responsible, well-rounded healthcare policy. The coalition is committed to quality, cost-effective care, and ensuring patients have options in the delivery of such care.

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