

April 22, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye:

Quality measures are critical tools for improving the quality and delivery 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 recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) includes an authorization of \$75 million for FY 2011 to identify gaps in quality measurement and develop patient-centered measures to fill those gaps. The undersigned organizations request that your committee fully fund this authorization. These monies will allow the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide grants to eligible entities to develop and update quality measures to address specific health care populations and priorities.

The public and the health care professions need measures that meaningfully improve the quality of health care and can be maintained over time as evidence and technology evolve. This requires a well funded and transparent process and infrastructure. Appropriating \$75 million for FY 2011 is a critical first step in meeting this need.

We thank you in advance for your efforts to provide the necessary resources to build a patient-centered health care system focused on quality improvement.

Sincerely,

AMDA – Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Benefits Council  
American Board of Medical Specialties  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Chest Physicians

American College of Emergency Physicians  
 American College of Gastroenterology  
 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
 American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
 American College of Physicians  
 American College of Radiation Oncology  
 American College of Radiology  
 American College of Rheumatology  
 American College of Surgeons  
 American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
 American Federation of Labor–Congress of Industrial Organizations  
 American Gastroenterological Association  
 America’s Health Insurance Plans  
 American Medical Association  
 American Nurses Association  
 American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
 American Osteopathic Association  
 American Psychiatric Association  
 American Society for Clinical Pathology  
 American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
 American Society for Radiation Oncology  
 American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
 American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
 American Society of Clinical Oncology  
 American Society of Hematology  
 American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
 American Thoracic Society  
 American Urological Association  
 College of American Pathologists  
 Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
 Federation of American Hospitals  
 Heart Rhythm Society  
 Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
 Medical Group Management Association  
 National Committee for Quality Assurance  
 National Partnership for Women and Families  
 North American Spine Society  
 Pacific Business Group on Health  
 Renal Physicians Association  
 Society for Vascular Surgery  
 Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
 Society of Hospital Medicine  
 Society of Nuclear Medicine  
 The Joint Commission  
 The Society of Thoracic Surgeons