



**July 18, 2017**

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady:

We, the Friends of the National Quality Forum (NQF) are a coalition committed to NQF and its role in improving the nation's healthcare. We strongly urge you to support continuing the currently authorized \$30 million in annual Medicare funding for NQF and quality and performance measurement. NQF's work is vital to advancing our national commitment to safer, more effective care.

NQF is a private, nonpartisan, independent organization that convenes physicians, hospitals, payers, consumers, and national experts in a consensus-based process to endorse the best measurement tools for improving accountability and patient care. NQF's multistakeholder approach to high-impact measurement is key to driving better quality care and lower costs, while also decreasing the burden on physicians and other providers. NQF is foundational to our efforts to achieve a cost-efficient, high-quality, value-based healthcare system that ensures the best care for Americans and the best use of the nation's healthcare dollars.

Consistent, continued Medicare Trust Fund support for NQF's work directly improves the health and well-being of the nation's 57 million Medicare beneficiaries, and all Americans, while also lowering costs.

NQF provides invaluable private sector input prior to the regulatory process to assist the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in selecting the best quality performance measures for use in public payment and reporting programs. NQF also makes recommendations to CMS to reduce and align measures used in federal programs. In 2017, NQF recommended a 20 percent reduction of less-effective measures used across seven federal programs in order to increase the focus on measures that drive improvement and to lessen the measurement burden for physicians and other providers.

Federal improvement programs that use NQF-endorsed quality measures have reduced patient harm in hospitals by 21 percent, saving 125,000 lives and \$28 billion in costs. The 3.1 million fewer harms to patients achieved from 2010-2015 include a 91 percent decrease in central line infections and a 16 percent decrease in surgical site infections. Hospital readmission rates for Medicare patients have decreased by 8 percent since 2012.

NQF-endorsed measures and guidance are also important to private sector payment programs. Without NQF's efforts, it would be impossible to know whether new payment models are working as intended to secure better quality and more cost-effective care for

patients and families.

NQF is working to meet healthcare stakeholder and policymaker calls for more efficient, effective measures that will result in high-quality care at lower costs. Specifically, NQF is:

- Setting measurement priorities to focus on health outcomes important to the nation;
- Streamlining NQF's endorsement process for quicker review of measures;
- Collecting feedback from healthcare's frontline providers to understand better the impact of measurement, reduce burden on physicians and other providers, and ensure that measurement produces valuable, actionable information; and
- Creating new pathways to access NQF's measurement expertise so the development of new measures is more informed, efficient, and effective.

The Friends of NQF appreciate your consideration of our request to support continuing the currently authorized \$30 million in annual Medicare funding for NQF and quality and performance measurement. Thank you for your ongoing leadership of and support for improving healthcare quality and the critical role NQF plays in securing it for patients, families, healthcare providers, payers, and the nation's taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy  
AdvaMed  
Adventist Health System  
American Academy of Dermatology  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Board of Medical Specialties  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Surgeons  
American Health Quality Association  
American Heart Association National Center  
American Medical Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Physical Therapy Association

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American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
American Society of Nephrology  
America's Essential Hospitals  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
AmeriHealth Caritas  
AMGA  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
bioMérieux  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association  
CAPG  
CareFirst BlueCross Blue Shield  
Carilion Clinic  
Children's National Medical Center  
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care  
Compassus  
Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care  
Council of Medical Specialty Societies  
Dental Quality Alliance  
Eli Lilly and Company  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Fresenius Medical Care North America  
Geisinger  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health  
Harborview Medical Center  
HCA  
Health Action Council  
Health Care Service Corporation  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
HealthPartners, Inc., Bloomington Minnesota  
HealthSouth  
Human Services Research Institute  
Humana  
Henry Ford Health System  
Informed Patient Institute  
Johns Hopkins Health System  
Johns Hopkins Medicine Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality  
Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc.

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Kaiser Permanente  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA  
Memorial Hermann Health System  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
Memphis Business Group on Health  
Minnesota Health Action Group  
MN Community Measurement  
National Association of ACOs  
National Business Group on Health  
National Committee for Quality Assurance  
National Health Policy Group  
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization  
National Partnership for Hospice Innovation  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel  
Nemours Children's Health System  
Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement  
Next Wave, Inc.  
Northeast Business Group on Health  
Pacific Business Group on Health  
PCPI Foundation  
Pharmacy Quality Alliance  
PhRMA  
Planetree International  
Premier, Inc.  
Press Ganey  
Quality Insights, Inc.  
SNP Alliance  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition  
Tenet Healthcare, Inc.  
The Alliance  
The Council on Quality and Leadership  
The Joint Commission  
The Leapfrog Group  
University of Pennsylvania Health System Penn Medicine  
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Vizient, Inc.

CC: Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means  
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Members of the Senate Committee on Finance