

June 16, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Baucus and Grassley:

As organizations committed to ensuring that all of our nation's children get the health coverage they need and deserve, we are writing to support the nomination of Dr. Donald M. Berwick to Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services (CMS). In all of our work, we strive to inform the federal policy debate to improve public policies related to children and families. CMS will play a leading role in ensuring that the crucial reforms in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) (P.L. 111-148) become a reality for America's children. We urge you to swiftly confirm Dr. Berwick as CMS Administrator. His extensive background and expertise in children's health policy issues make him uniquely suited to fulfill this position.

As you are aware, Dr. Berwick currently serves as President and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health. He is also a pediatrician, adjunct staff in the Department of Medicine at Boston's Children's Hospital, and a consultant in pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital. Throughout his career, Dr. Berwick has sought opportunities to apply his medical expertise more broadly to improve the practice of medicine and patient care. As an accomplished pediatrician, he possesses specialized knowledge of children's unique health care needs.

He has served as Chair of the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and as an elected member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Dr. Berwick served on the IOM's governing Council from 2002 to 2007. In 1997 and 1998, he was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Healthcare Industry. In addition, Dr. Berwick is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for his work, including the 1999 Ernest A. Codman Award, the 2001 Alfred I. DuPont Award for excellence in children's health care from Nemours, the 2002 American Hospital Association's Award of Honor, the 2006 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award for Individual Achievement from the National Quality Forum and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the 2007 William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research, and the

2007 Heinz Award for Public Policy from the Heinz Family Foundation. Further, Dr. Berwick has published over 130 scientific articles in numerous professional journals on subjects relating to health care policy, decision analysis, technology assessment, and health care quality management.

Dr. Berwick's long history as a pediatrician working to advance health care access and coverage for our nation's children – including decades of experience in academia, as a research professional, as a clinician, and as a policy advisor – make him an ideal candidate to lead CMS. He is a highly regarded health expert, and we believe that Dr. Berwick demonstrates a unique and very broad set of professional experiences. We strongly support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Ability Pediatric Therapy (TX)

Academic Pediatric Association

Access Project

Advocates for Children and Youth (MD)

The AIDS Institute

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

America's Promise Alliance

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Pediatrics – Alabama Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics – Florida Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics – Georgia Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics – Massachusetts Chapter

American Association of School Administrators

American Dental Hygienists' Association

American Public Health Association

Arkansas Advocates Children and Families

Association for Clinical Research Training

Association for Community Affiliated Plans

Association for Patient-Oriented Research

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc.  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Beckett Family Consulting  
Boston Medical Center - Department of Pediatrics  
Broward House, Inc. (FL)  
California Children's Hospital Association  
California Rural Indian Health Board Inc.  
CareOregon  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative  
Child and Family Policy Center (IA)  
Child and Family Resources, Inc. (AZ)  
The Children's Aid Society (NY)  
Children's Campaign, Inc. (FL)  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Dental Health Project  
Children's Health Fund  
Children's Hospital Association of Texas  
Children's Hospital Central California  
The Children's Hospital – Colorado  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland  
The Children's Partnership  
The Children's Trust of South Carolina  
Children Now  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc.  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Commission on the Public's Health System (NY)  
Community Access National Network  
Community Catalyst (MA)

Community Health Partners, Inc. (MT)  
Connecticut Commission on Children  
Connecticut Voices for Children  
Covering Kentucky Kids and Families  
Covering Kids and Families of Indiana  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
District of Columbia Primary Care Association (DC)  
Docs For Tots  
Every Child Counts (IA)  
Families USA  
Family Connection of Easton, Inc. (PA)  
Family Voices  
Family Voices – New Jersey  
First Focus  
Foster Care Alumni of America  
Foster Family-based Treatment Association  
Great Kids, Inc. (CA)  
Head Start, Inc. (MT)  
Herndon Alliance  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hopi Elderly Committee, Hopi Tribe (AZ)  
Iowa/Nebraska Primary Care Association  
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition  
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center (TX)  
LEAnet  
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center (CA)  
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford  
Maine Children's Alliance  
Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform  
Mended Little Hearts  
Mental Health America  
MemorialCare Health System (CA)

Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency  
Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach (CA)  
MomsRising  
Montana's Children's Trust Fund  
Morris Heights Health Center (NY)  
The National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Public Hospitals  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Collaboration for Youth  
National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality  
National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network  
National Youth Advocate Program  
Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy  
New Mexico Voices for Children  
New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation  
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations (WA)  
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (OR)  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Ohio Association of School Nurses  
Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center (CA)  
Parents Reaching Out (NM)  
The PLACE of Comfort (FL)  
Prevent Child Abuse Virginia  
Primary Health Care, Inc. (IA)  
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT  
Saddleback Memorial Medical Center (CA)  
Save the Children

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (NY)  
Seattle Indian Health Board (WA)  
SEIU  
Society for Clinical and Translational Science  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (NJ)  
Stop It Now! (MA)  
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association  
United Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. (TN)  
United Way Association of South Carolina (SC)  
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio  
Voices for America's Children  
Voices for Children of San Antonio (TX)  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition  
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families  
ZERO TO THREE