

# **NPAF** National Patient Advocate Foundation

**The Patient's Voice | since 1996**

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March 19, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the patients we represent, National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) would like to thank you for your tireless leadership on health care reform and to express our support for the historic and transformative health care reform legislation the House of Representatives will vote on in the coming days. This legislation will provide comprehensive and affordable health insurance coverage to millions of uninsured Americans including, among other things, coverage for preventive services, hospital, prescription drugs and chronic disease management. The legislation will also establish for all Americans critically important insurance protections. These include the elimination of preexisting conditions exclusions and annual and lifetime benefit limits and a cap on out-of-pocket medical expenses.

The National Patient Advocate Foundation is a national non-profit organization which strives to provide the patient voice on issues relating to improving access to, and reimbursement for, high-quality, affordable healthcare. The advocacy activities of NPAF are informed and influenced by the experience of patients who receive case management services from our companion organization, the Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), which provides professional case management services to patients with chronic, debilitating or life-threatening conditions. Last year, PAF resolved 55,384 patient cases and received more than 9 million inquiries from patients.

The health care legislation soon to be before the House of Representatives will immediately eliminate preexisting conditions for children under the age of 19 and completely eliminate preexisting conditions for all Americans in 2014. Since 2006, NPAF has been a leader on the elimination of preexisting conditions working with Representatives Allyson Schwartz and Joe Courtney and others for the elimination of discrimination based on a person's health status. NPAF commends the Congress for making this provision a priority. It cannot come a day too soon. NPAF was very pleased to see that the reconciliation bill expands upon the Senate bill and applies various insurance market reforms to grandfathered plans.

In addition, NPAF commends the health care reform legislation for addressing the barrier that annual and lifetime limits present for patients and for imposing a cap on out-of-pocket expenses for all patients. These important steps will reduce the number of Americans faced with medical debt or worse, medical bankruptcy, and together with the enhanced

affordability provisions added in the reconciliation part of this package, makes great progress toward providing Americans with truly affordable access to health insurance coverage.

We know that passage of health care reform will be a landmark step for patients in this country. This legislation will change the entire national platform of health care delivery and will require our continued collaboration as we begin implementation. While there have been varying points of view on this legislation, NPAF is deeply appreciative of your leadership in this effort to enact comprehensive reform, your courage in bringing it forward for a vote, and we look forward to working with you in the future to build upon this auspicious beginning.

With sincere appreciation on behalf of the millions of patients served by Patient Advocate Foundation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Davenport-Ennis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Nancy Davenport-Ennis  
Founder & CEO