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The Patient's Voice | *since 1996*

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November 3, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Speaker

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

The National Patient Advocate Foundation is a national non-profit organization which strives to provide the patient voice on issues relating to improving the access to, and the reimbursement for, high-quality, affordable healthcare. Our companion organization, the Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), provides professional case management services to patients with chronic, debilitating or life-threatening conditions. PAF is headquartered in Newport News, Virginia, but has additional offices including one in San Diego, California. Last year, 9,505,534 patients contacted PAF for information, and 48,369 received professional case management services. Of those contacting PAF, 792,762 were from California, and of those receiving case management services, 4034 were from California.

NPAF commends the progress made last week by the House leadership and the three House Committees with jurisdiction over health care reform legislation in advancing critically important national health care reforms to those we serve through PAF and to countless others in the United States. As an organization, we agree with your opening remarks on October 23 in which you affirmed, "...Members of Congress are working around the clock to produce health insurance reform legislation that will improve quality, lower cost, expand coverage, and retain choice....Our principles in this legislation are affordability for the middle class, responsibility to our children – not to add one dime to the deficit – and security for our seniors. We deeply appreciate the efforts of the leadership and the Committees to thoroughly vet the many complicated issues involved in reforming the nation's health care system and your commitment to creating reforms which will result in affordable access to care for all Americans.

H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, is historic legislation that addresses the concerns of patients and people throughout our nation. We are particularly pleased that the legislation will institute many reforms immediately,

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and we encourage all involved to continue to seek the earliest possible timeline for implementation of reforms. We strongly support the provision in this legislation to provide desperately needed assistance next year through high risk pools to those unable to acquire insurance due to preexisting conditions.

We look forward to cooperating with the members of the House of Representatives as the bill continues on its path to the President for signature. We pledge our willingness to help in any way we can to realize enactment of comprehensive health care reform legislation as rapidly as possible in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



Nancy Davenport-Ennis
President and CEO
National Patient Advocate Foundation