



For Immediate Release
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Statement by the National Patient Advocate Foundation on President-Elect Obama's Victory

WASHINGTON - The National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) congratulates President-Elect Barack Obama (D-IL) on his historic victory in the 2008 Presidential election. NPAF, as the public policy voice of the Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF) – a direct patient services organization servicing over 45,000 patient cases annually and providing information for more than 7 million inquiries – looks forward to working with President-Elect Obama's team and the new Congress to create lasting solutions that will allow universal access to progressive, modern and effective healthcare.

With the historic conclusion of this election, our nation now has many critical issues to tackle together – key among them being the need to create improved access to healthcare for all. The provision of quality healthcare remained a chief issue of intense debate for the candidates and for voters throughout the campaign, and we are optimistic that it will remain a priority issue in the first days of Sen. Obama's Presidency. NPAF and PAF congratulate the President-Elect – and new incoming Members of Congress – and stand ready and committed to work together on creating real change in 2009 and beyond for affordable access to quality care for all Americans.

Since 2006 NPAF has invested in research and worked collaboratively with the non-profit community and Members of Congress resulting in the introduction of two bills to eliminate access to insurance barriers for patients with pre-existing conditions – a top priority for solving issues of the uninsured and underinsured. President-Elect Obama's position on pre-existing conditions has been consistent, compassionate and pro-patient, requiring insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions so all Americans, regardless of their health status or history, can receive comprehensive benefits at fair and stable premiums. In recognition of this position and his additional efforts, President Elect Obama was the 2007 recipient of the Patient Advocate Foundation's National Humanitarian Healthcare award.

President-Elect Obama has made it known that he understands the challenges American families are facing as they find themselves unable to afford or access healthcare. In his historic victory speech, he made a statement that PAF's case managers hear and relate to on a daily basis: "There are mothers and fathers who will lie awake after the children fall asleep and wonder how they'll ...pay their doctors' bills." Speaking directly on behalf of these families, we are grateful that our nation's President-Elect is in tune with their struggle.

NPAF and PAF were founded on the principle that health care is a basic human need and shared societal responsibility. Whereas NPAF focuses on policy change, PAF is a direct patient services organization providing professional case management at no charge to chronically and severely ill patients facing barriers to healthcare. Last year, PAF received more than 7.5 million inquiries for information or direct assistance contacts from such patients, of which 45,870 became full patient cases involving successful case management resolution.

On January 15, 2009, PAF will host its first briefing of the new Congress on Capitol Hill open to congressional healthcare leaders, Members of the new Administration and media. NPAF's Pillars of Healthcare Reform Proposed Solutions, as well as a catastrophic insurance research report commissioned by NPAF through George Washington University, will be featured at the briefing, and made available to the public online after January 15 at www.npaf.org.

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