

July 13, 2009

Chairman George Miller
Education & Labor Committee
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Howard McKeon
Education & Labor Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Charles Rangel
Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Dave Camp
Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Henry Waxman
Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Joe Barton
Energy & Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We are writing you on behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) to offer our strong support for the Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) provisions included in the Tri-Committee health reform bill about to be considered in the House.

Our organizations represent more than 200,000 physicians who treat patients every day, many of whom have multiple chronic conditions. We know the value of having scientifically valid information available that permits physicians and their patients to make informed decisions on the most effective and appropriate treatment in individual cases. We also firmly believe that patient care will benefit if coverage decisions are informed by the best available science, including evidence on the clinical effectiveness of different treatments.

Comparative effectiveness research brings to the patient and physician the best chance of providing the right treatment to each patient in the most safe and effective manner. We know that better information on which treatments are most effective leads to better patient outcomes, less suffering, and more efficient use of limited healthcare resources. Moreover, we agree with the approach of your bill, which makes clear the importance that this information must be the result of scientifically valid research, emanating from a trusted source and dedicated solely to the development of comparative effectiveness research based on the best available science and through a transparent process.

We have great respect for the incredibly hard work your committees have undertaken in the enormous and complex objective of healthcare reform. As the bill moves through the House and eventually into a Conference Committee with the Senate, we urge you to hold fast to your positions on CER that will maintain it as a scientifically-based research initiative designed to benefit patients. CER should not be subjected to arbitrary

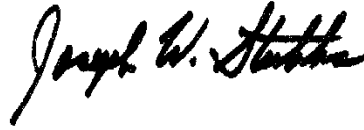
legislative limits on use that could harm patients by denying them, their physicians, and their health plans with access to the best scientific evidence to improve the care patients receive.

Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the weeks and months ahead as you endeavor to provide the American people with a healthcare system, with CER, that will work to their great benefit.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jim King, MD, FAAFP, consisting of stylized initials 'JK' followed by 'MD'.

Jim King, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair
American Academy of Family
Physicians

Handwritten signature of Joseph W. Stubbs, MD, FACP, in cursive script.

Joseph W. Stubbs, MD, FACP
President
American College of Physicians

Handwritten signature of Nancy Rigotti, MD, FACP, in cursive script.

Nancy Rigotti, MD, FACP
President
Society of General Internal
Medicine