

July 15, 2009

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Academic Family Medicine Advocacy Alliance, we urge you to support HR 3200, *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*. Our members have called for fundamental reform of the US health care system for two decades and we commend members of the three committees for their leadership and commitment to find solutions to this complex national priority. While we will continue to work with the committees on changes to specific provisions, we urge approval of this legislation to keep the health care reform process moving.

We are supportive of many sections of this legislation:

- Health care coverage for all, insurance plan changes and subsidies for lower-income people to purchase meaningful coverage;
- The comprehensive approach to recognize the value of primary care: elimination of the "overhanging debt" associated with the Sustainable Growth Rate; authorization of medical home pilot programs in Medicare and Medicaid; the creation of a bonus for primary care services along with increases in Medicaid payment so that it is equal to Medicare by 2012; and the investment in numerous workforce improvements, including robust primary care training, a new national workforce commission and student loan funding;
- Comparative effectiveness research provisions;
- A public plan option to allow individuals to purchase high quality, affordable insurance and which can include a variety of innovative payment mechanisms and policies, including the patient-centered medical home and care management.

Now is the time to provide affordable, high-quality health care coverage. The status quo is not working. We urge committee members to pass the *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*.



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