



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

July 9, 2009

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW (Suite 614-G)
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

On behalf of the 94,600 physicians and students who are members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, I would like to thank the Obama Administration for the emphasis placed on the value of primary care in the proposed physician payment rule, issued on July 1. It is an appropriate and long-overdue acknowledgment of the role primary care plays in our nation's health care delivery system and the Medicare program in particular. Our members are grateful that this proposed rule shows such a strong commitment to the value of primary care.

We will have more extensive formal comments for the record in the weeks to come, but it is already clear to us that this Administration has proposed bold steps toward aligning incentives by adjusting relative values and bringing a degree of rationality to the payment formula. We appreciate the thought and the work that went into the proposed rule, and we will make our views known to our members and our colleagues.

As we proceed with the significant undertaking of reforming health care to become more affordable and available to everyone, please be assured of our commitment to support the efforts needed to achieve our common goals.

Sincerely,

Jim King, MD, FAFPP
Board Chair

cc: Nancy-Ann DeParle
Jeanne Lambrew

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