



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

February 7, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents more than 97,600 family physicians and medical students nationwide, I am pleased to support the re-nomination of Don Berwick, MD as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and would strongly recommend that the Committee consider and approve his nomination as quickly as possible.

Dr. Berwick remains one of the nation's leading authorities on health care quality and improvement. As President of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), he led the successful *100,000 Lives Campaign* that reduced preventable mortality in American health care. Under his leadership, IHI recruited and partnered with hospitals across the country to adopt and implement proven best practices and quality improvement measures. By all measures, he succeeded in helping save lives and reducing unnecessary hospital services.

In his time so far as CMS Administrator, Dr. Berwick has demonstrated great support for strengthening primary care in Medicare and Medicaid. Based on his extensive health policy expertise, he has helped ensure that Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program have become more aware of the value of primary care physicians in controlling health care costs and improving patients' health. AAFP has found Dr. Berwick to be a highly thoughtful, responsive, compassionate and energetic administrator of the very important health care programs that CMS administers.

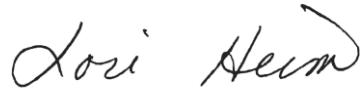
Working with him as Administrator, our members have been impressed that he is sincere and consistent in his belief that the people of this nation can and should have health care that meets their needs, that strengthens the health and the productivity of the American workforce and that is affordable for all. He has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to building a patient-centered, quality-focused and efficient health care system.

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The AAFP looks forward to continuing to work with Dr. Berwick to make a difference in improving health through primary care and to ensure a stable source of health care for beneficiaries of Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. If we may be of further assistance on this, please contact Kevin Burke at kburke@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Heim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Lori" on the left and "Heim" on the right, connected by a horizontal line.

Lori Heim, MD, FAAFP
Chair, Board of Directors