



February 10, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price, MD
Secretary, Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Price:

With your confirmation by the United States Senate to serve as the 23rd Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, you will have responsibility and oversight of many important functions of the federal government with regard to health and health care. As the leading voice for family medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians is ready to build on its daily engagement with your Department and its Agencies.

Now that you are confirmed, we feel it is important to outline our priority issues for you and your team. On November 9, 2016, the AAFP sent a letter to then President-elect Trump outlining a set of five legislative and regulatory priorities. Those five priorities are:

1. Health Care Coverage for All
2. Delivery System and Payment Reform
3. Health Care Affordability
4. Primary Care Workforce
5. Promote Prevention & Wellness

We view these five issues as the pillars for improving access, affordability, and quality for all Americans, but specifically those who rely upon the Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). We look forward to engaging with you and your team at HHS and its Agencies on these important areas.

Furthermore, we believe these priorities will ensure continued progress toward a health care system that provides coverage for all, supported by a payment system that rewards value over volume of services, builds a primary care physician workforce that can meet the growing demand for care, promotes prevention and wellness, prohibits discrimination in coverage and benefits, acknowledges and promotes diversity and protects patients from financial barriers to needed services.

Finally, like you, we are very interested in pursuing revisions and reforms that would reduce the administrative and regulatory burden on physicians. The cost of these burdens in both human and financial terms has grown expeditiously over the past decade and is a leading cause of frustration

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and burnout among physicians. The AAFP sent a letter to President Trump on January 31, 2017 in which we identified 10 regulations and policies that we believe could be reformed without impacting patient care in a negative manner. We also see great opportunity to work with HHS on greatly simplifying and reducing the regulatory requirements of MACRA implementation.

The tasks before you as Secretary are numerous. The decisions made by you and the Agencies under your charge will have a profound impact on the lives of millions of people. The AAFP and our members stand ready to lend our expertise and recommendations. At a time convenient for you, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our priorities and learn more about your priorities for the Department and Agencies. Please contact Shawn Martin, Senior Vice President of Advocacy, Practice Advancement, and Policy at smartin@aafp.org or (202) 232-9033 for assistance from the AAFP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Meigs, Jr.", with a small "MD" written at the end of the signature.

John Meigs, Jr., MD, FFAFP
President