



March 5, 2013

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the American Hospital Association (AHA), we write to nominate Rick Kellerman, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Kansas Wichita (KU-Wichita) School of Medicine, to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). Together our organizations represent more than 105,900 family physicians and medical students and approximately 5,000 hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations nationwide. We believe Dr. Kellerman's vast experience delivering primary care including as a solo practitioner in rural Kansas, as well as his overall dedication to improving the delivery of health care, would make him a valuable addition to the Commission.

Dr. Kellerman is a board-certified family physician who served for five years as the physician representative on the Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors. His past responsibilities include president and board chair of the AAFP, president of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, and a member of the board of directors of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County. He was also chair of the AAFP Commission on Legislation and Governmental Affairs and Board Liaison to the Commission on Quality and Scope of Practice and the Committee on Rural Health. Dr. Kellerman's many years of caring for patients in a variety of medical practices and serving on medically related organizations gives him a unique perspective on health care in the United States and experience in working across payment silos. He is thoroughly versed in public and private payment policies, and has spoken nationally and internationally on health reform, Medicare payment policies, the patient centered medical home, health care work force and physician payment reform under Medicare.

In his capacity as Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at KU-Wichita School of Medicine – Wichita, Dr. Kellerman oversees family medicine education, leading patients and residents in rural office practices, rural hospitals and other community environments and is an expert on medical education requirements. He works with medical students and family physician resident-physicians in three separate family medicine residency programs, as well as full-time physician faculty and hundreds of community volunteer physicians who teach students

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and residents in Wichita and around the state. Prior to his role as Chair, Dr. Kellerman was in rural solo practice in Plainville, Kansas and served as the Program Director of the Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency Program in Salina, Kansas. Smoky Hill received the "Outstanding Rural Health Program in America" award from the National Rural Health Association in 1996. This diversity of experience assures familiarity with the unique challenges faced by primary care physicians and rural hospitals, as well as with delivering health care in rural areas.

Dr. Kellerman has provided extensive testimony on the patient-centered medical home to the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. In addition, he has provided testimony to several Kansas legislative committees with jurisdiction over healthcare, and to the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate on the unique healthcare challenges that providers and patients alike face in rural areas.

The AAFP and AHA believe that MedPAC would benefit greatly from Dr. Kellerman's unique experience and understanding of the Medicare program in the context of rural America, both with respect to the experience of beneficiaries and providers. His thoughtful approach to analyzing issues would be of tremendous value to MedPAC and we urge you to give him the opportunity to serve as a member of the Commission.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Dr. Kellerman for this key appointment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Burke, AAFP Director of Government Relations at 202-232-9033 or kburke@aafp.org, or Joanna Hiatt Kim, AHA Vice President of Payment Policy at 202-626-2340 or jkim@aha.org.

Sincerely,



Glen R. Stream, MD, MBI, FAAFP
Board Chair
American Academy of Family Physicians



Rich Umbdenstock
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Hospital Association

cc: Cynthia A. Bascetta
Managing Director, Health Care
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Mark E. Miller, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Medicare Payment Advisory Commission