



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*®

February 9, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), representing 130,000 internal medicine specialists (internists) and medical student members, I am pleased to support the re-nomination of Don Berwick, MD, as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and urge the Finance Committee to approve his nomination in a timely manner.

In June of 2010, ACP joined more than 700 stakeholders on the front lines of health care delivery – including business, consumers, insurers, and clinicians – to support Dr. Berwick’s nomination. He is well respected in the health-care community and known for his desire to bring constructive change to health care delivery. In his previous position as President of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Dr. Berwick led the effort to provide patient-centered care, improve patient safety, and promote care coordination in health care.

During his service as CMS Administrator, Dr. Berwick has sought to improve the delivery of health care through enhanced care coordination. Under his leadership, CMS has launched important initiatives to improve the delivery of services for Medicare and Medicaid recipients, including awarding grants to states to establish multi-payer “advanced primary care” medical homes, the launching of the new Center on Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and the effective implementation of Medicare regulations relating to coverage of preventive services, coverage of a new wellness visit, payments for physician services, and improvements in the Medicare Part D program. He has shown an extraordinary willingness to consider the views of clinicians, including seeking input from ACP and others on the framework to establish accountable care organizations. In all instances, he has shown a solid commitment to being responsive and inclusive, and to consider good ideas from all sources to improve care to Medicare and Medicaid enrollees without regard to politics or ideology. We especially appreciate his support for the Patient Centered Medical Home to provide patients with comprehensive, continuous, coordinated, and preventive care, managed by a highly trained clinician.

At this extraordinary time when CMS is charged with navigating a wide range of policies stemming from the Affordable Care Act while addressing the longer term financing challenges for Medicare and Medicaid, it is critically important that the agency have stable, committed and visionary leadership at its helm. Dr. Berwick is such a leader, and we look forward to working with members of the Senate Finance Committee to ensure that Dr. Berwick is confirmed as CMS Administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Ralston MD FACP". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

J. Fred Ralston, MD, FACP
President