



February 11, 2010

The Honorable President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We applaud your Administration's commitment to healthcare reform. As you look to a path forward in Congress, we encourage you to continue your focus on bending the cost curve and improving quality by reforming the payment system to a value-based system.

As nationally-recognized providers, we believe that healthcare costs are financially unsustainable and that the current payment system does not incentivize quality care. Costs are largely driven by a system that pays based on volume. It is further driven by regionally variable service utilization and performance. Action must be taken to address payment reform to properly incentivize quality care.

As you work with Congress to achieve healthcare reform legislation, the Healthcare Quality Coalition urges you to continue – and expand upon – your call for a value-based healthcare system. Regardless of the legislative path, a core component of any true healthcare reform package must be transforming the current payment system from one that rewards volume to a new system that rewards value.

Congress recognizes this glaring need, as well. In both the House and Senate-passed versions of healthcare reform there are important value-based provisions. We encourage you to embrace these efforts to produce value and provide leadership on a path forward for meaningful, value-based reform.

As leading healthcare providers who provide high quality care at a low cost, our experience proves that both can be achieved. However, for the system as a whole to accomplish similar results, the incentives must change. Our experience as providers is that increased costs do not necessarily improve patient outcomes. This was clearly demonstrated in the Atul Gawande's article featuring healthcare providers in McAllen, Texas that was published in the June 1, 2009 edition of the *New Yorker*.

Simply put, we as a nation need to make the transformation to a payment system that rewards value. This is vital if we are to continue to meet the needs of patients today and the patients of tomorrow. We stand ready to work with you and your Administration to make this change possible, and look forward to your continuing leadership.

Sincerely,



Daniel Neufelder
President and CEO
Affinity Health System



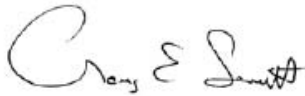
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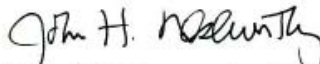
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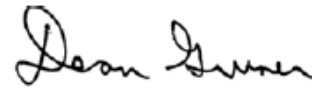
Ashok Rai, MD
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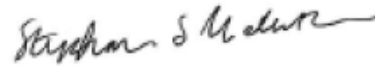
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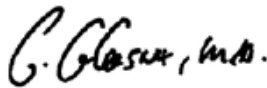
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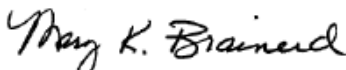
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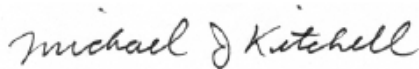
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