



Association of
American Medical Colleges
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May 12, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Senate Finance Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
Senate Finance Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Senator Isakson, and Senator Warner:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) applauds the continued bipartisan approach of the Senate Finance Committee to improve care and outcomes for Medicare patients with chronic conditions and welcomes the reintroduction of the Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017. As the organization that represents the central care providers for the nation's most challenging and complex patients, the AAMC supports the underlying tenants of the bill to streamline Medicare's payment system to incentivize the appropriate level of care, increase care coordination among individual providers across care settings who are treating individuals living with chronic illnesses, and to facilitate the delivery of high quality care.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 147 accredited U.S. medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 160,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 115,000 residents.

Academic medical centers (AMCs), which include clinical faculty providing care to patients at both inpatient and outpatient clinic settings, are leaders in providing care for clinically complex and vulnerable patients while also performing innovative research and training for the next generation of clinicians. Although they comprise only 5 percent of hospitals, AMCs provide 20 percent of hospital inpatient services to Medicare beneficiaries, 25 percent of all Medicaid inpatient care, and 33 percent of all hospital-based charity care. Often located in urban areas, AMCs care for a disproportionate share of medically underserved patients including those who lack health insurance or are covered by Medicaid, or, though insured, are residents of low-income areas. The nation's teaching hospitals are perhaps best known for providing the world's most advanced medical care to patients who are diagnosed with serious or rare illnesses, as well as those patients who have multiple, complex conditions.

The AAMC appreciates the committee's recognition of the importance of advancing team based care, expanding innovation and technology, and identifying the chronically ill population to ensure better care.

In addition, empowering individuals and caregivers in care delivery is critically important—when patients are involved and invested in their care, they often experience better outcomes.

Again, the AAMC appreciates and supports the committee's efforts to improve care for Medicare patients with chronic conditions. We look forward to continuing to engage with you to address these challenges and ensure all Americans get the care they deserve. If you would like to discuss this issue in further detail, please contact Leonard Marquez, AAMC director of government relations, at lmarquez@aamc.org or 202-862-6281.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer
Association of American Medical Colleges

CC: Leonard Marquez, director of government relations