



September 22, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy,

We, the Friends of NQF, request your support for continued investments in critical healthcare quality improvement and measurement initiatives. The Friends of NQF is a multistakeholder coalition of organizations committed to voicing their support for NQF's mission to improve the nation's health through quality measurement and improvement. Specifically, our organizations strongly urge you to authorize \$30 million in Medicare funding to support quality measurement at the National Quality Forum (NQF) for fiscal year 2022 and 2023 each.

Since its inception, NQF has garnered strong bipartisan support for its consensus building leadership. Barring immediate action, precious federal quality funding will be cut to historic lows at a time when the nation is grappling with a global pandemic; the healthcare ecosystem is yearning for meaningful opportunities to reduce burden while improving quality; consumers and purchasers are searching for safe, effective, affordable care; and the country is building critical momentum towards value-based care. Funding NQF is vital to sustaining these efforts.

Founded over twenty years ago as a national response to systemic healthcare quality issues, NQF serves as the trusted forum to drive multiple perspectives into actions that create measurable health improvements. Sharing a common purpose, NQF brings all stakeholders – physicians, nurses, hospitals, patient and caregivers, policy leaders, health plans, employers, and more – together to reach difficult consensus. As part of this mission and with one, non-partisan voice, NQF promotes federal policies supporting the vision that every person experiences high value care and optimal health outcomes.

COVID-19 has brought the strengths and weaknesses of America's healthcare delivery system into sharp focus. Fundamental to addressing these challenges is building a stronger healthcare system - more focused, cohesive, resilient, and responsive. Multistakeholder collaboration is essential to breaking down silos across the health system, addressing healthcare disparities, embracing innovation, and creating patient-driven measures of quality. NQF is the trusted, safe forum for these diverse stakeholders to review important evidence and innovations, debate and disagree, and then build critical

consensus to move the nation forward. These efforts will produce better health outcomes and deliver greater value for the Medicare program, for patients, and for all the people who dedicate their careers and their lives to delivering healthcare in the United States.

Finally, funding NQF's quality work supports critical needs in every community across the country. These efforts include addressing historic rates of opioid and substance use disorder, escalating mental and behavioral health concerns, social determinants of health, as well as challenges unique to rural communities. It also includes advancing technological innovations and new payment models to improve affordability and outcomes, reduce administrative burden, and improve data reliability and flow to achieve real-time insights, even at the bedside. These are just a few of the critical efforts currently underway that, with your support, must continue.

We greatly appreciate the continued bipartisan support of NQF. Congress's reauthorization of NQF's funding at the \$30 million level will sustain the initiatives above and help to assure patients' choice of the highest quality care and support Medicare's continued shift to value-based purchasing. It is imperative that it receive the necessary resources to fulfill its important role in this effort.

Sincerely,

Friends of NQF

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Association on Health and Disability

American College of Physicians

American Heart Association

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society of Anesthesiologists

America's Essential Hospitals

AMGA

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Association of American Medical Colleges

ATW Health Solutions.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Civitas Networks for Health

Compassus

Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care

eHealth Initiative (eHI)

Federation of American Hospitals

FOTO Patient Outcomes, a Net Health company

GlaxoSmithKline

Harborview Medical Center

HCA Healthcare

HealthPartners, Bloomington MN

Intermountain Healthcare

Kaiser Permanente

Medicare Rights Center

Memphis Business Group on Health

National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

National Association of ACOs

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Partnership for Women & Families

New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

PFCCpartners
Pharmacy Quality Alliance
Planetree International, Inc.
PointRight®, a Net Health company
Premier Inc.
The Healthcare Leadership Council
The Joint Commission
The Lakeshore Foundation
The Leapfrog Group
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Vizient, Inc.

CC:

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman, Committee on Finance
United States Senate, 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
United States Senate, 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515