April 22, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye:

Quality measures are critical tools for improving the quality and delivery of health care. Because quality measurement affects all stakeholders across the continuum of health care, federal funding of measure development and testing is essential.

The recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) includes an authorization of $75 million for FY 2011 to identify gaps in quality measurement and develop patient-centered measures to fill those gaps. The undersigned organizations request that your committee fully fund this authorization. These monies will allow the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide grants to eligible entities to develop and update quality measures to address specific health care populations and priorities.

The public and the health care professions need measures that meaningfully improve the quality of health care and can be maintained over time as evidence and technology evolve. This requires a well funded and transparent process and infrastructure. Appropriating $75 million for FY 2011 is a critical first step in meeting this need.

We thank you in advance for your efforts to provide the necessary resources to build a patient-centered health care system focused on quality improvement.

Sincerely,

AMDA – Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Benefits Council
American Board of Medical Specialties
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians

American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Federation of Labor–Congress of Industrial Organizations
American Gastroenterological Association
America's Health Insurance Plans
American Medical Association
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
American Urological Association
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Federation of American Hospitals
Heart Rhythm Society
Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Medical Group Management Association
National Committee for Quality Assurance
National Partnership for Women and Families
North American Spine Society
Pacific Business Group on Health
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Nuclear Medicine
The Joint Commission
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons