



National Health Council

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National Health Council

May 15, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Congresswoman DeGette:

On behalf of the patient advocacy community, the National Health Council (NHC) extends its sincere thanks to you for your tireless leadership to present a bipartisan 21st Century Cures bill.

More than 40 percent of the United States population lives with one or more long-term disease or disability, and they are in desperate need of new treatments and cures. The 21st Century Cures Act includes several important provisions that, in tandem, will greatly improve the quality of care for people with chronic conditions.

The NHC supports the provisions of this legislation that advance the discovery and development of treatments, such as the incorporation of patient experience data, improved data sharing of patient information, streamlining the institutional review board (IRB) process for multi-site clinical research, and increased funding for the National Institutes of Health.

The time is right for a thoughtful, nonpartisan debate on how best to meet the urgent needs of individuals living this country with chronic conditions. As Congress prepares to tackle this crucial piece of health legislation, our hope is that bipartisan cooperation will carry this initiative forward through the House and Senate and, eventually, to the President's desk for signature.

We stand ready to lend our support and help advance the 21st Century Cures Act in the nonpartisan spirit in which it was created.

Sincerely,

Marc Boutin, JD
Chief Executive Officer