



1776 I Street, N.W.
9th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
T 202.331.5790
www.ahqa.org

July 22, 2013

Representative Fred Upton
Representative Henry Waxman
Representative Michael Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Upton, Waxman, and Burgess:

The American Health Quality Association (AHQA) supports the bipartisan efforts of the Energy and Commerce Committee to reform physician reimbursement under the Medicare program. AHQA represents state and territory-based Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) across the nation. We agree that it is imperative to modernize physician payment using sound clinical measures to incentivize practitioners and reward quality improvement. The priority quality measurement domain areas and the clinical practice improvement activities outlined in the draft physician payment legislation align well with the technical assistance expertise and the quality improvement services AHQA's QIO members provide to physicians across this country.

As you work to address physician payment reform, please consider the QIO Program Restoration Act (H.R. 805), introduced by Representatives Price and Kind that maintains a local, state-based approach to QIO work and enables the essential technical assistance that clinicians will need in a reformed payment system. This bill enjoys the support of a bipartisan coalition of nearly 30 Representatives, pays for itself, and according to the Congressional Budget Office, offers several hundred million dollars in additional savings.

We applaud your efforts and recommend inclusion of the language of H.R. 805 in your legislation to help support practitioners at the local level implement comprehensive payment reform. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202)331-5790 should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Todd D. Ketch
Executive Director