

Dear Patient,

As physicians we are first and foremost dedicated to the care of our patients. We are also your most trusted ally when it comes to the debate on healthcare reform. All of us would like to see an all inclusive plan whereby every citizen has access to high quality affordable healthcare. As physicians we would like to spend less time dealing with the often frustrating obstacles put in place by insurance companies while spending more time with our patients. There has been an overwhelming barrage of media coverage of the debate with all sides taking aggressive stances on this issue. Unfortunately, there has been much “spin” and misinformation. This includes the Republicans, Democrats, Congress, The White House, and especially the media. All of us, physicians and patients alike would welcome an **improvement** in our health care delivery system. Unfortunately, it is our opinion that the current legislation pending in Congress would not provide an improvement.

Therefore, for the sake of our patients and to preserve our ability to provide high quality healthcare we have become more informed regarding the details of the current Health Care Reform Bill. We ask you to do the same and learn more about what the bill contains.

**As our patient, there are some things we want you to know:**

1. **No one cares more about your health and our health care system as much as your doctor. Your physician is your most reliable, trustworthy advocate...**...not the bureaucrats and politicians in Washington.
2. **We don't have to passively accept the government's current proposed plan.** The administration's strategy is to push a reform bill through very quickly, before any meaningful review and discussion can take place. Why? Because the administration and congressional leaders know that there are features of the proposed legislation that will not be acceptable to many people if those features are disclosed. They hope to move this legislation through congress before you have time to review and understand the details. Whether your political leanings are conservative or liberal, you should have concerns about the way this is being handled by our political leaders and the details of the proposed plan. Health care reform, as proposed, could have a dramatic impact not just on our health system, but also on the entire future of our country.
3. **Physicians want health care reform too.** However, we do not support the government's vision of government controlled health care. We believe that the proposed plan will not lower costs, but instead will increase the cost of health care (estimated increased cost will be \$1.5 trillion over 10 years according to the Congressional Budget Office). In addition, this plan will do nothing to improve care. This plan basically will result in a Medicare/Medicaid type plan to cover all Americans. Why would we expand these government health plans that are already nearing collapse due to excessive costs on the hope that making them bigger will make them better? **Government led health care will survive economically only if care is rationed and taxes are increased.** Is that what any of us really want? We think there are better ways to improve our system through market driven competition. The “government option” for health care will gradually force private insurers out of business, resulting in a government monopoly (no competition) and could create unhealthy regulation (rationing of care). We are not defending the practices of many insurance companies which we feel are egregious. However, it is our opinion that without competition and without accountability a government run health care system will be costly and inefficient in the delivery of health care. If this bill is passed Health care costs will be funded by **increased taxes on individuals and business.**

4. **The government will attempt to set standards of care.** The government wants to be in charge of what treatments are available to you. A Federal Health Board will be created to recommend and attempt to set government rules regarding health care. This board will be made up of government and presidential appointments. As many as 26 people may sit on the board at one time and as it currently is written, there may not be one physician on the entire board. This board will be in charge of making health care recommendations made for our entire country. Yet the board is made up in large majority by bureaucrats, not doctors. Therefore as it stands the Congress and the President have left out patients and doctors from decision making. This bill puts the government in charge of guiding your health care not you or your individual doctor. Doctors and patients need to be the primary decision makers in managing health care, not Washington bureaucrats and politicians.
5. **We don't have much time!** The House and Senate will be acting on this legislation soon. The American people will be denied an opportunity for reasoned and thoughtful discussion and debate. We need to slow the process down enough to allow some time for thought and dialogue. **You need to act now!**

#### What can you do?

1. **Become an informed patient.** Do your own research. Learn as much as you can. **There is much "mis-information" being spread by all sides in this debate....don't let the politicians and the media tell you what to think.**
2. **Talk to your doctor during your visit.** We will try to give you our honest appraisal of the situation.
3. **Visit [Docs4PatientCare.org](http://Docs4PatientCare.org).** We recently joined a group dedicated to giving practicing physicians a voice in the health care reform process: **Docs 4 Patient Care**. We add to the web site almost daily. Please visit the web site often to get more information.
4. **Call or write your US Senators and Representative....NOW!** Instructions on how to do this quickly and easily follows.

Please help! We are fighting for the future of our health care system. There is not much time left.

#### Senators

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#### Congressmen

To e-mail your concerns use this URL <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

1st district- Pete Visclosky (202) 225-2461  
 2nd district- Joe Donnelly (202) 225-3915  
 3rd district- Mark Souder (202) 225-4436  
 4th district- Steve Buyer (202) 225-5037  
 5th district- Dan Burton (202) 225-2276

6th district- Mike Pence (202) 225-3021  
 7th district- Andre Carson (202) 225-4011  
 8th district- Brad Ellsworth (866) 567-0227  
 9th district- Baron Hill (202) 225-5315