



September 14, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
U.S. Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

As Congress considers the reauthorization of CHIP and extensions of certain Medicare policies in the coming weeks, we strongly urge you to include in the legislation the needed \$30 million in annual mandatory Medicare funding for the quality and performance measurement work of the National Quality Forum (NQF) that is essential to Medicare.

It is critical that Congress reauthorize NQF's funding to assure patients' choice of the highest quality care and support Medicare's continued shift to value-based purchasing. Reauthorization ensures the gains made to date in improving the quality and safety of care for Medicare beneficiaries and all patients are sustained and furthered in the future.

We, the Steering Committee of the Friends of NQF, lead a coalition committed to NQF and its role in improving the nation's health and advancing quality in the Medicare program. To quote Ashish Jha, MD, in his recent *New England Journal of Medicine* Catalyst [blog](#) "if NQF were to disappear tomorrow, we would simply need to re-create it. There is no other entity currently capable of taking on this role." Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group highlights in [Forbes](#), "consensus is the critical building block for creating an accountable health care market."

Thank you for considering our request for continued mandatory Medicare funding support of NQF and your ongoing leadership to advance the nation's healthcare quality.

Sincerely,

The Friends of NQF Steering Committee

American Academy of Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
America's Essential Hospitals
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
Compassus
Federation of American Hospitals
Health Care Service Corporation
Healthcare Leadership Council
Kaiser Permanente
Memphis Business Group on Health
National Partnership for Women & Families
Pacific Business Group on Health
Society of Thoracic Surgeons