



NATIONAL
PHYSICIANS
ALLIANCE

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 10, 2009

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

The passage of H.R. 3962, the “Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2009,” by the US House of Representatives marked a historic point for the health care of patients and their families across this country. The 20,000 members of the multi-specialty National Physicians Alliance (NPA) are grateful for the courage, fortitude, and leadership demonstrated by you and your colleagues in providing 96 percent of Americans with the basic human right of being able to see a doctor when they need one.

The legislation’s public option for health insurance will introduce necessary competition in the insurance market. By ending discrimination based on pre-existing conditions, ending co-pays for preventive medicine, and by ending lifetime caps for health insurance companies, this legislation will give patients the kind of reliable coverage they deserve.

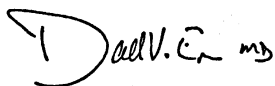
The NPA believes the quality of our patients’ care depends on delivery systems that build upon innovations in medical homes and accountable care organizations, as outlined by the legislation’s establishment of a CMS Center for Innovation. By equipping physicians with information that is free of undue industry influence, the Center for Comparative Effectiveness Research can help physicians restore integrity to the practice of medicine and provide our patients with safer care.

Recognizing the expanding cultural and ethnic diversity in the United States, it is vital for physicians, public health professionals, and members of the government to work together to reduce disparities in health in all segments of our population. HR 3962 begins to address this challenge by increasing funding for community health centers, establishing standards for data collection, and by supporting workforce diversity.

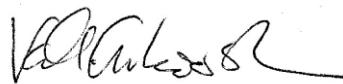
The NPA believes that all medical decisions should be made between a trusted doctor or other appropriate provider and the patient. These often difficult medical decisions should not be encumbered by coverage decisions based on political or religious views. We will continue to work with you to ensure that the final bill is as patient-centered in this regard as possible.

The National Physicians Alliance is grateful for the effort and difficult choices you and your colleagues have had to make in passing HR 3962. We look forward to continuing our support for this historic legislation and its enactment before the end of the year. Access to high quality, affordable health care is a basic human right, and our patients cannot wait.

Sincerely,



David Evans, MD
President



Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH
President-elect