



Jack Lew
Chief of Staff
The White House

January 3, 2013

Dear Mr. Lew:

On behalf of the National Physicians Alliance (NPA) and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), we are writing to urge you to fully implement the Physician Payments Sunshine Act (PPSA) which was added as Section 6002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

The NPA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c) (3) research and educational organization that promotes health and fosters the engagement of physicians within communities across the country in an effort to achieve high quality, affordable health care for all. AMSA is the largest and oldest independent association for physicians-in-training in the country that for over a decade has worked on issues related to the consequences of relationships between prescribers and the pharmaceutical and device industries.

The NPA and AMSA have supported the PPSA since its passage and are deeply discouraged that HHS has not yet released final regulations, even though the statute called for regulations to be issued by October 1, 2011. We are now 15 months past the statutory deadline.

We are joined in our support by a diverse array of stakeholders, including drug and device companies which have already invested a great deal of money to comply with the Sunshine Provisions.

As physicians and medical students, we understand that payments from industry can set the stage for significant conflicts of interest that can lead to the prescription of costly treatment, even when equally effective, safe, and less expensive treatments are readily available. Such conflicts pose a grave threat to the intent of the Affordable Care Act, which is to deliver quality and affordable care to all Americans. Transparency about industry payments is an important step toward restoring trust and integrity in medicine.

There is no call for further delay. We request that final regulations be released no later than January of this year, so that manufacturers can quickly implement procedures to begin collecting payment information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jean Silver-Isenstadt in black ink.

Jean Silver-Isenstadt, MD, PhD
Executive Director
National Physicians Alliance

Handwritten signature of Reshma Ramachandran in black ink.

Reshma Ramachandran
PharmFree Fellow
American Medical Student Association