



American Academy of
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

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November 6, 2009

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

Dear Madam Speaker,

On behalf of the more than 75,000 clinically practicing physician assistants (PAs) practicing in the United States, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) congratulates you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives for unveiling H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

The AAPA is pleased that this bill removes current barriers to care for Medicare beneficiaries by allowing physician assistants to order skilled nursing facility care and to provide hospice care for Medicare patients. H.R. 3962 also contains language specifically defining PAs as primary health care providers and makes it clear that PAs may lead the primary care team in the new chronic care management model. Additionally, the bill fully integrates PAs into new medical home and chronic care management models of care, and reauthorizes funding for PA education programs provided through Title VII.

AAPA is committed to working with the 111th Congress to enact health care reform legislation that meets the needs of the American people and encompasses the Academy's health care reform principles, including access to quality, affordable, cost-effective health care for all Americans, physician-directed teams of health care providers, and optimal utilization of primary care.

We believe the Affordable Health Care for America Act goes a long way in meeting the Academy's health care reform principles, and we applaud the efforts of House members in producing such a bill.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to ensuring that all Americans have access to quality and affordable health care. Physician assistants have an invaluable role to play in the delivery of health care in America, and we stand ready to work with you to achieve meaningful health care reform this year.

Sincerely,

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