



July 13, 2017

Dear (insert Member of Congress),

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is foundational to our efforts to achieve a cost-efficient, high-quality, value-based healthcare system that ensures the best care for Americans and the best use of the nation's healthcare dollars.

NQF is a private, nonpartisan, independent organization that convenes physicians, hospitals, payers, consumers, and national experts in a consensus-based process to endorse the best measurement tools for improving accountability and patient care. NQF's multistakeholder approach to high-impact measurement is key to driving better quality care and lower costs, while also decreasing the burden on physicians and other providers.

The Friends of NQF is a coalition committed to NQF and its role in improving the nation's health. We strongly urge you to support continuing the currently authorized \$30 million in annual Medicare funding for NQF and quality and performance measurement. NQF's work is vital to advancing our national commitment to safer, more effective care.

Consistent, continued Medicare Trust Fund support for NQF's work directly improves the health and well-being of the nation's 57 million Medicare beneficiaries, and all Americans, while also lowering costs.

NQF provides invaluable private sector input prior to the regulatory process to assist the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in selecting best quality performance measures for use in public payment and reporting programs. NQF also makes recommendations to CMS to reduce and align measures used in federal programs. In 2017, NQF recommended a 20 percent reduction of less-effective measures used across seven federal programs in order to increase the focus on measures that drive improvement and to lessen the measure burden for physicians and other providers.

Federal improvement programs that use NQF-endorsed quality measures have reduced patient harm in hospitals by 21 percent, saving 125,000 lives and \$28 billion in costs. The 3.1 million fewer harms to patients achieved from 2010-2015 include a 91 percent decrease in central line infections and a 16 percent decrease in surgical site infections. Hospital readmission rates for Medicare patients have decreased by 8 percent since 2012.

NQF-endorsed measures and guidance are also important to private sector payment programs. Without NQF's efforts, it would be impossible to know whether new payment models are working as intended to secure better quality and more cost-effective care for patients and families.

**The deadline to add your organization as a signator of this letter is July 11, 2017. Please reply to [info@friendsofnqf.org](mailto:info@friendsofnqf.org)**

NQF is working to meet healthcare stakeholder and policymaker calls for more efficient, effective measures that will result in high-quality care at lower costs. Specifically, NQF is:

- Setting measurement priorities to focus on health outcomes important to the nation;
- Streamlining NQF's endorsement process for quicker review of measures;
- Collecting feedback from healthcare's frontline providers to understand better the impact of measurement, reduce burden on physicians and other providers, and ensure that measurement produces valuable, actionable information; and
- Creating new pathways to access NQF's measurement expertise so the development of new measures is more informed, efficient, and effective.

We appreciate your consideration of our request for continued funding support of NQF. Thank you for your ongoing leadership of and support for improving healthcare quality and the critical role NQF plays in securing it for patients, families, healthcare providers, payers, and the nation's taxpayers.

Sincerely,

**[Friends of NQF listed alpha by organization]**