
FRIENDS OF NQF

October 24, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Republican Leader McCarthy,

We, the Friends of NQF, request your help for additional investments in support of critical healthcare quality improvement and measurement initiatives. ***Specifically, we strongly urge you to include in the next must-pass funding legislation [H.R. 8201- Promoting Health Care Quality Act of 2022](#), which authorizes \$26 million in Medicare funding to support quality measurement-related activities through the National Quality Forum (NQF) for fiscal year 2023. Barring immediate action, FY23 will see precious federal quality funding cut to historic lows***, at a time when the need for value-based care is greater than ever.

The Friends of NQF is a multistakeholder coalition of organizations committed to voicing support for the National Quality Forum's (NQF) and its role in improving the nation's health. NQF is integral to our national efforts to achieve a value-based healthcare system that ensures the highest quality of care for patients, as well as the most efficient use of the nation's healthcare dollars.

NQF brings together a diverse group of stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem – physicians, nurses, hospitals, patients and caregivers, policy leaders, health plans, employers, and others – to reach consensus on the highest impact measures to drive healthcare improvements and reduce costs. Since its inception, NQF has always garnered strong bipartisan support for its consensus building leadership. NQF plays a unique and important role in catalyzing change and working to develop more efficient, effective measures while working to advance the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) quality measurement action plan.

We believe the U.S. healthcare system must focus on improving quality and delivering safe, effective, equitable and affordable care for all while also working to reduce administrative burden. Fully funding NQF is vital to sustaining these efforts. Healthcare systems are measuring and incentivizing quality improvements utilizing valid and reliable NQF endorsed measures to improve care and outcomes. For example, CMS used an NQF endorsed measure to collect data from 2013 to 2018 which demonstrated a 13% increase in patients receiving a head CT or MRI and interpretation within 45 minutes of arrival at the

emergency department - an important measure to help prevent long-term brain damage and risk of successive strokes.

In addition to its measure review and endorsement work, NQF is working to reduce regulatory burden. The Measures Application Partnership is responsible for the Measure Set Review (MSR), a new process developed in 2021. MAP, in conducting the MSR process, recommends quality and efficiency measures to remove from federal health programs through a holistic review of measures with multistakeholder input. Additionally, NQF, in partnership with CMS and America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), convenes the Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC). For the CQMC, NQF uses its unique convening power to bring together public and private payers to accelerate alignment of quality measures and improvement strategies across payers and programs which helps decrease administrative burden.

Finally, NQF's multistakeholder, consensus-based work serves as a critical platform to address important healthcare needs and drive value-based payment across the country. These efforts include:

- Using quality measurement to better assess and address distressing rates of the opioid and substance use disorder crisis and escalating mental and behavioral health concerns, including evaluating effectiveness of interventions.
- Developing evidence-based strategies to address the critically high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity.
- Accelerating endorsement and implementation of patient reported outcomes and experience measures for performance improvement and accountability.
- Strengthening measurement science and providing implementation recommendations to identify and address social determinants of health.
- Crafting meaningful approaches to unique healthcare quality challenges in rural communities.
- Advancing innovations in measurement science and technology to improve outcomes, reduce regulatory burden, and improve data reliability and flow to achieve real-time insights.

The Friends of NQF greatly appreciates the continued bipartisan support of NQF's essential work.

Congress' reauthorization of NQF's funding at the \$26-million-level for FY23 will sustain the initiatives above and help to support Medicare's continued shift to value-based purchasing while continuing to provide a voice for all stakeholders in the quality improvement process. These critical efforts will be curtailed and cut short without increasing the current authorization of necessary resources.

Thank you for your support in this important effort.

Sincerely,

AdventHealth

AHIP

AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American College of Physicians

American Heart Association National Center

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
America's Essential Hospitals
AmeriHealth Caritas
ATW Health Solutions
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
Cleveland Clinic
Compassus
Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care
CSS/Consumers' Checkbook
CSS/Consumers' Checkbook
DFW Business Group on Health
Federation of American Hospitals
Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value
FOTO Patient Outcomes
Fresenius Medical Care
Harborview Medical Center
Health Action Council
Health Policy Corporation of Iowa
HealthCare 21 Business Coalition
Healthcare Leadership Council
Healthcare Purchaser Alliance of Maine
Houston Business Coalition on Health
Kaiser Permanente
Kansas Business Group on Health (KBGH)
Kentuckiana Health Collaborative
Louisiana Business Group on Health
Medicare Rights Center
Memphis Business Group on Health
Midwest Business Group on Health
National Partnership for Women and Families
Net Health Systems, Inc.
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
Next Wave
North Carolina Business Group on Health
PFCCpartners
Pittsburgh Business Group on Health
Planetree International
Premier, Inc.
Purchaser Business Group on Health
Quality Insights
Rhode Island Business Group on Health
St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
Texas Business Group on Health
The Alliance

The Economic Alliance for Michigan

The Leapfrog Group

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

UnityPoint Health

Washington Health Alliance