

## Stakeholder Perspectives on the NCHC Plan

"The National Coalition on Health Care has produced a set of recommendations whose breadth and depth reflect the severity of the fiscal challenges we face. The American Academy of Pediatrics looks forward to working with NCHC and federal policy makers to keep the needs of children in the forefront of efforts to build a health care system that focuses on prevention, improves quality and reduces costs for the long term."

—**Thomas K. McInerney, MD; President, American Academy of Pediatrics**

"Health care costs continue to spiral out of control, but there are thoughtful steps we as a nation can take to curb costs while improving access to quality care. The recommendations released today should begin a discussion in earnest about constructive ways to reduce the health care cost burden and elevate quality, while avoiding across-the-board spending cuts and other blunt measures that succeed only in shifting health care costs to patients."

—**John R. Seffrin; Chief Executive Officer, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Member of the Board, NCHC**

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association commends the National Coalition on Health Care for its substantive package of policy recommendations, *Curbing Costs, Improving Care: The Path to an Affordable Health Care Future*. These are the kinds of thoughtful ideas that need to be on the table as the Administration and Congress work with consumers, employers, providers, payers, and others to take costs out of the system while promoting high-quality, affordable care."

—**Alissa Fox; Senior Vice President of Policy and Representation, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association**

"We are pleased that NCHC's comprehensive plan addresses the critical need for investment in prevention and population health, and specifically takes on the continuing toll of the tobacco epidemic on Americans' lives and budgets."

—**Dave Dobbins; Chief Operating Officer, American Legacy Foundation; Member of the Board, NCHC**

"Any comprehensive and meaningful health system reform must address the nation's rising health care costs. We commend the National Coalition on Health Care for developing policy recommendations that have the potential to produce considerable savings while promoting efficiency and improving care over the long term. These actionable policies can make important strides in strengthening and sustaining our health care system."

—**Lincoln Smith; President and Chief Executive Officer, Altarum Institute**

"Easter Seals shares the urgency for the federal government to be fiscally responsible and to strengthen the national economy. At the same time, we know people with disabilities disproportionately rely on government services to live, learn and work in their communities. The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC) has been a

source of information and meaningful debate on health policy for more than 20 years. While Easter Seals does not embrace fully each of the NCHC's recommendations, Easter Seals shares the coalition's goal of assuring the federal budget deficit debate considers the fiscal benefits that can be realized when individuals have greater opportunities to access quality, affordable health care and long term services and supports that meet their individual needs."

—**Easter Seals**

"The National Coalition on Health Care's emphasis on these aspects of health care is in line with CalPERS' approach to providing the best quality, most cost-effective care we can to our members. The NCHC strategies emphasize value-based purchasing, promoting transparency of health care costs, broad-based use of generic prescription drugs, coordinated care, and prevention and wellness programs. These are all steps that CalPERS has incorporated in its member health plans, and we will continue on that path."

—**Priya Mathur; Chair, CalPERS Pension and Health Benefits Committee**

"The staff and leadership of the National Coalition on Health Care have worked diligently to put together a comprehensive package of proposals designed to achieve the "Triple Aim" of better care, better health, and lower costs. In these times of soaring health care costs and burgeoning deficits, the Coalition has produced a thoughtful and thorough approach to addressing the serious problems we face as a nation, which can serve as a viable starting point for deliberation on this vital issue. While everyone will likely find something to disagree with in the package, we believe that nearly everyone will also find the vast majority of the proposals worthy of support. For that we applaud the Coalition."

—**National Association of Community Health Centers**

"We applaud NCHC's efforts in pulling together bipartisan, pragmatic recommendations addressing health care costs. A fair, balanced approach is required in dealing with the growing burden of health care spending, and will be crucial during upcoming budget discussions. Both Congress and the Administration would do well to pay heed to NCHC's carefully thought-out suggestions on both costs and improving quality of care for American health consumers."

—**Evan Falchuck; Vice Chairman, Best Doctors, Inc.**

"Employers and others who purchase health care benefits for large populations are committed to improving the affordability and the overall value of health care. The Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) commends NCHC for taking the initiative to propose specific and constructive actions to contain health care costs. We join with NCHC to urge health policy (or health system) changes that reward providers for focusing on value, care coordination and patient safety, increase consumers' engagement in their care decisions, and promote a competitive marketplace. We are committed to sharing the purchaser perspective on these vital issues and will continue to collaborate with NCHC and all of the stakeholders engaged in this process."

—**David Lansky; President and Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Business Group on Health**

"The National Physicians Alliance is pleased to endorse *Curbing Costs, Improving Care: The Path to an Affordable Health Care Future*--a balanced and ambitious new report from the National Coalition on Health Care. This thoughtfully developed, pragmatic, and evidence-based set of recommendations deserves serious attention by those committed to bending the cost curve and improving the value of American health care. The report rightly emphasizes the need to protect and improve care for our most vulnerable patients. Instead of simply shifting

costs to either patients or private insurers, the report's recommendations focus on reducing overall costs in a responsible manner, based on evidence, not ideology. We ask physicians, in partnership with patients, to make decisions about care based on evidence. It is refreshing to see an approach to reimbursement and financing reforms based on similar considerations."

—**The National Physicians Alliance**

"No matter what your political stripe, we can all agree health care costs more than it should, and that for the money, we ought to be getting better quality. Rising costs are squeezing the federal budget and state budgets, and the budgets of families and business across the nation. America must get serious about reining in health care costs – not by cutting care or raising deductibles, but by cutting waste, incentivizing quality, and focusing on prevention and the care that help people stay their healthiest. That's why U.S. PIRG applauds the fact that the National Coalition on Health Care has released this new policy package. The seven-point strategy outlined in the plan addresses the urgent problem of the gap between federal spending and revenues. But it is important that it aims to do so in a way that helps build a sustainable health system for the long-term, and does not simply shift costs onto the states, or to families or businesses already struggling with the high cost of health care. We must move forward together to solve the problems in our health care system. Concrete policy proposals such as the one the National Coalition on Health Care has released today help move us toward that goal."

—**Mike Russo; U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Federal Program Director**

"The cost of health care in this country is affected by some deeply rooted problems and practices. AAFP commends the National Coalition on Health Care for its focus on addressing health care costs by taking a comprehensive and thorough look at how the system is structured and by making specific recommendations for savings and revenues. The AAFP will seriously consider each of these recommendations, and we congratulate NCHC for fostering the national conversation that must take place. This is a vital effort and it should lead to a stronger primary care physician workforce and greater coordination of care."

—**American Academy of Family Physicians**

"2013 will be a monumentally important year in US healthcare. We must decide how to make health care sustainable, or embark upon a downward spiral of rationing and care dependent increasingly on personal ability to pay. The NCHC has looked at the tough choices, and proposed a bold plan to avert that looming crisis."

—**Jack Lewin, MD; Founder and Principal, Lewin and Associates; Member of the NCHC Board; Former CEO of the American College of Cardiology**

"NCHC has exhibited strong leadership by offering a pathway to reducing the federal deficit. Specifically, SCAN applauds the Proposal's emphasis on care coordination and integration, critical components to bending the health care cost curve and improving the quality of care available to the most vulnerable Americans. SCAN Health Plan is hopeful that other organizations will put forth their specific proposals to help us reach public policy consensus in 2013."

—**SCAN Health Plan**