



The Quest for a Healthier America

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

September XX, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer:

As members of the Aspen Group, a nonprofit 501c(3) group of our nation's health care leaders representing over 100 million consumers, we applaud Congress's efforts to support health care providers and their patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also want to respectfully urge you to consider how the needs of patients, particularly in a pandemic, will be best met through promoting value-based care. Through the promotion of value over the traditional volume dependent fee-for service (FFS) system, we know that patients will receive higher quality of care at a lower cost, which is critical during our economic crisis. Providers reliant upon FFS payments have seen revenues plummet as consumers cancel or delay care, and many provider practices have reduced hours and staff or closed altogether. Such actions reduce resources for COVID-19 detection and containment and impact access to care.

We believe the [COVID-19 Health Care Response and Resilience Program](#), developed by one of our group's members Dr. Mark McClellan, achieves this important objective. Under this program, funds would help providers further invest in the tools needed to both continue to respond to the pandemic and prepare for the transition to value-based payments (VBP). This transition would be supported with additional legislative action to expand telehealth coverage and site-neutral payments and support enhanced use of quality and cost data. Our group supports the program's dual efforts of up-front relief funds to address providers' immediate financial needs, and commitments to participate in value-based payments (VBP) models to address the long-term need for greater participation in payment models that are more resilient to the challenges encountered during times of crisis. We would expect this shift to occur in Medicare FFS, Medicare Advantage, and Commercial programs.

We want to reiterate our appreciation for the support Congress has already given to health care providers and we appreciate your ongoing attention to COVID-19 recovery and resilience. As health care leaders with a diverse set of expertise and experience, we stand ready to offer assistance and support your commitment to better care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

The Aspen Group
Co-Chairs Bill Frist and Kent Thiry

*The Aspen Group may opine on issues when a majority of members support the topic, there is directional consensus, and it is consistent with our missions and values. A letter of support does not mean that every member of the Aspen Group endorsed the position.



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Cc: Honorable Members of the United States House of Representatives
 Honorable Members of the United States Senate

The Aspen Group is comprised of uniquely experienced leaders from across the health care landscape who strive for a healthier America.

Member	Title	Company
Agee, Nancy	President and CEO	Carilion Clinic
Anthony, April	Executive Chairman	Homecare Homebase
Barrett, George	Former Chairman and CEO	Cardinal Health
Brailer, David M.D.	Chairman and CEO	Health Evolution Partners
Boudreaux, Gail	President and CEO	Anthem
Conway, Patrick M.D.	CEO	Optum Care Solutions
Daschle, Tom	Former Senate Majority Leader	United States Senate
de Crescenzo, Neil	President and CEO	Change Healthcare
Diaz, Paul	CEO	Myriad Genetics
Frist, Bill M.D.	Former Senate Majority Leader	United States Senate
Ganz, Mark	Executive Chairman	Cambia Health Solutions
Gordon, Darin	President and CEO and Former Director	Gordon Associates Tennessee Medicaid
Gottlieb, Scott M.D.	Special Partner and Former Commissioner	New Enterprise Associates Food and Drug Administration
Harrison, Marc M.D.	President and CEO	Intermountain Healthcare
Hayek, Andrew	CEO	Triple Aim
Ishrak, Omar	Executive Chairman	Medtronic
Keck, Kim	President and CEO	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island
Kelsay, Ellen	President and CEO	Business Group on Health
Leavitt, Mike	Former Governor Former Secretary	State of Utah Health and Human Services
McClellan, Mark M.D.	Director and Former Administrator	Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, Duke University Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Orszag, Peter	Managing Director and Former Director	Lazard, Office of Management and Budget
Thiry, Kent	Former Chairman and CEO	DaVita Inc.



The Quest for a Healthier America

MISSION

To develop and promote meaningful solutions that advance the health and healthcare of all Americans within the next decade.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. To convene a diverse group of healthcare leaders who will be persistent in the pursuit of an affordable, high quality healthcare system.
2. To systematically address the most challenging current healthcare issues to improve the health of individuals and communities.
3. To collaborate around a national strategy for improving the health of Americans.
4. To promote provocative solutions that add value to efforts to transform healthcare.

VALUES

- Patient-centered
- Value-based
- Knowledge-driven
- Partnership-inspired
- Nonpartisan