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January 15, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of
Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) and its 147 accredited physician assistant (PA) education programs, we would like to express our gratitude for your leadership in including the strong provisions supporting PA education programs in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

We respectfully request that the following training-related provisions for the cluster on primary care medicine be included in the final legislation that is being reconciled by the House-Senate Conference Committee. Enactment of these provisions will enhance the ability of PA education programs to increase the supply of PAs in the health care workforce.

- The 15% carve-out for PA education programs
- The updated definition of PA education programs
- PA faculty loan repayment grant eligibility

Additionally, we support the measures that enhance the ability of PAs to provide quality medical care, which include integration into new chronic care and medical home models, as well as the ability to provide skilled nursing facility and hospice care for Medicare patients.

PAEA’s vision statement promotes improving the quality of health care for all people. We strongly support provisions to enact the Public Health Investment Fund, eliminate health disparities, and strengthen the health care workforce.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please have your staff contact Athena Abdullah, director of government relations, at

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aabdullah@PAEAonline.org; or (703) 548-5538, ext. 303. We again express our gratitude to you and your staff for your hard work on these two bills that will provide coverage for 30 million currently uninsured Americans. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours,



Ted Ruback, MS, PA-C
President



Timi Agar Barwick
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable Christopher Dodd
Honorable Tom Harkin
Honorable Jack Reed

Honorable Charles Rangel
Honorable Pete Stark
Honorable Henry Waxman
Honorable Frank Pallone
Honorable John Dingell