



Working Together for an Affordable Future

July 27, 2015

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

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Reid:

The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC) is a coalition of health care stakeholder organizations committed to promoting an affordable, high-quality health system in the United States. As the nation's oldest and most diverse group working to achieve comprehensive health reform, we represent more than 100 member organizations, including health care providers, purchasers, payers, and consumers. Collectively, our organizations represent, as employees, members, or congregants, more than 100 million Americans.

I write today to express NCHC's support for the Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act of 2015 (S. 466) as approved by the Committee on Finance on June 24, 2015.

Quality measurement is critical to the success of payment reform and delivery system transformation. By agreeing upon and adopting a uniform and targeted high-value set of measures, public and private payers can reduce redundant, burdensome data reporting, and simultaneously send a strong signal to providers highlighting the most important areas for improvement. This is important for both all health care services and, in particular, for the maternity and perinatal services which can be vital to the health of mothers and their newborn children.

S. 466 supports the establishment of a core set of quality measures for maternal and infant health and supports measure development to fill gaps in existing measures. To ensure that more robust quality measurement translates into meaningful improvements in maternal and infant health, the bill also expands regional and state maternal and perinatal quality collaboratives.

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Additionally, as reported by the Committee on Finance, S. 466 now also includes the provisions of the Quality Measure Alignment Act of 2015 (S.1427). This provision would amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the role of the Consensus Based Entity (currently the National Quality Forum) to include facilitating quality and efficiency measure alignment across the public and private sectors.

NCHC urges you to advance this constructive, bipartisan legislation. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at jrother@nchc.org or NCHC's Policy Director, Larry McNeely at lmcneely@nchc.org.

Sincerely,



John Rother
President and CEO