



June 16, 2021

Ms. Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,

Congratulations on your new leadership role at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. We look forward to working with you to transform our health care system so that it supports and encourages physician-led value-based care models while ensuring adequate provider competition.

The Partnership to Empower Physician-Led Care (PEPC) is a membership organization dedicated to supporting value-based care to reduce costs, improve quality, empower patients and physicians, and increase access to care for millions of Americans through a competitive health care provider market. We believe that it is impossible to achieve truly value-based care without a robust independent practice community. Our members include Aledade, American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), California Medical Association, Florida Medical Association, and Medical Group Management Association (MGMA). We also have individual and small medical group supporters across the country, many of whom are independent physicians or practices and wish to remain so.

We believe that physicians – especially independent physician practices– are the linchpin of our nation’s health care system. They have repeatedly demonstrated their superior ability to generate positive results in value-based care arrangements, both in improved health outcomes and reduced costs. In our vision of the future, this important piece of the health care system not only survives, but thrives as a result of policies that place independent physicians on a level playing field with other providers and opportunities to test new models with components that reflect their unique circumstances.

We look forward to working with you on shared policy priorities, including prioritizing and building upon the success of physician-led alternative payment models in both Medicare and other markets, promoting competition across providers, and supporting patient-directed care through models that encourage patients to participate in their own health care decision-making and to be rewarded for doing so.

Once you are settled in, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the role of independent physicians and practices in leading payment and delivery models that drive the system to better outcomes and lower costs. We would also like to talk with you about future priorities for CMS and its role in increasing provider competition.



Under your leadership, CMS has the opportunity to build on the results that have been achieved by physicians and physician-led practices by innovating in key areas such as new payment structures/arrangements, quality measures, and information sharing. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if the Partnership to Empower Physician-Led Care can be a resource to you. I can be reached at kristen@physiciansforvalue.org or 202-640-5942.

Sincerely,

Kristen McGovern
Executive Director