



May 17, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways & Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Pallone and Neal and Ranking Members Walden and Brady:

I am writing to express the Alliance of Community Health Plans' (ACHP) support for reauthorization of PCORI and its funding mechanism. Over its first seven years of operation, PCORI-funded research has produced trustworthy information geared toward the kinds of questions patients and their clinicians face every day. It is one of the few organizations dedicated to helping patients and those who care for them make informed health care decisions.

As the health sector continues its evolution toward value-based care, and as consumers take a more active role in decision-making about their care, the need for scientific evidence that is meaningful and actionable has never been greater. Continued production of the kind of evidence coming out of PCORI is vital to nearly every approach for addressing the quality, cost and experiences associated with American health care.

As an association representing 24 of the nation's highest performing health plans and provider organizations, ACHP appreciates the evidence generated by PCORI. For our members – all community-based, non-profit organizations – patient-centered, publicly available and outcomes oriented research is especially critical.

ACHP has also partnered with PCORI in its work in ways that have directly benefitted the members our plans serve. Starting in 2017, with funding from the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award, ACHP set out to document how community health plans disseminate timely, relevant research to enable physicians to improve care delivery and ultimately, health. The research was conducted with 21 of ACHP's member health plans and their affiliated provider organizations, all proven leaders in implementing innovations in quality of care, patient experience and affordability. The results, included in the attached report, show that when high-performing health plans collaborate closely with health systems and communities, evidence-based decision-making increases. As a result, care improves, costs go down and patients experience better outcomes. ACHP begins a new grant-funded project in collaboration with PCORI in July of this year, and will be working to disseminate evidence on innovative peer-led approaches to managing mental illness. This work will advance our plans' understanding about proven innovations in providing care that are more effective at engaging patients, achieving desired outcomes and managing costs, as well as their understanding about how to operationalize them.

MAKING HEALTH CARE BETTER

Through the creation of PCORI, Congress committed to build the evidence base for improved health decisions, seeking to empower patients and drive innovation and value in health care. While much has been accomplished, this work is far from done. To ensure that PCORI is able to continue its important research without interruption, ACHP urges Congress to reauthorize PCORI before it expires on September 30, 2019.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about ACHP's work with PCORI. Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ceci Connolly".

Ceci Connolly
President and CEO