



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution In Support Of Patient Centered Medical Homes

WHEREAS, growing use of emergency departments (ED) for preventable conditions signals deterioration in access to primary care for insured and uninsured populations; and

WHEREAS, population health measures, including all-cause mortality, and mortality from specific diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and stroke, are better in areas with more primary care physicians; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that only 12% of visits to emergency departments are for non-urgent reasons, many patients present with emergency conditions that might have been prevented or mitigated were it not for the patient's failure or inability to receive primary care; and

WHEREAS, a 2009 study found that in 2006, the United States spent about \$31 billion on hospital services for adults on potentially avoidable hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, states with more primary care physicians per capita have better health outcomes and higher scores on performance measures; and

WHEREAS, the strengthening of primary care is essential to a variety of proposed reform models; and

WHEREAS, a Patient Centered Medical Home has the potential to re-envision primary care by improving clinical quality, increasing patient satisfaction, improving physician workplace satisfaction, and increasing economic viability of primary care practices; and

WHEREAS, a Patient Centered Medical Home involves a team-based approach that includes behavioral health, comprehensive medication management, nutrition counseling, and other services needed by the primary care practitioner to address the specific needs of individual patients; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Centered Medical Home when implemented may result in healthier patients, more satisfied providers and cost savings; and

WHEREAS, a Patient Centered Medical Home may improve quality of health care and lower health care costs, thereby creating savings to allow more Americans to have health care coverage and to provide for the sustainability of the health care system; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Centered Medical Home has the potential to reduce disparities in health care access, delivery, and health care outcomes; and

WHEREAS, 31 other States have established Patient Centered Medical Home Programs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) supports and encourages State's efforts to demonstrate the quality, safety, value, and effectiveness of the Patient Centered Medical Home and advanced primary care initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this NLGA resolution supports the 31 states who have decided to launch Patient Centered Medical Home initiatives; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the House and House Minority Leader, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, to members of relevant Congressional committees, the relevant federal agencies implementing patient centered medical homes, and that the NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in *StateNews* magazine, and that the NLGA further post the full text of the resolution to its web page making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected officials, and other interested parties.

Sponsored by: Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, (D-MD)

Lead Co-Sponsor: Lt. Governor Carol Molnau (R-MN)

Other Co-Sponsors:

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