



STAND FOR QUALITY
in Health Care

PBGH
Pacific Business
Group on Health

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Pacific Business Group on Health Hails Recommendations on Quality and Affordability as Major Step to Reforming Health Care

Washington, DC (March 24, 2009) – The prospects that health reform will address underlying cost and quality challenges took a big step forward today.

Stand for Quality, a broad coalition of over 160 groups, called on Congress and the Obama Administration to assure that better measurement and transparency be the foundation for efforts to reform health care and make it more affordable.

“Unless we change health care to anchor it in delivering value – looking at both the quality and cost of care – instead of churning out huge quantities of inconsistent and often unnecessary care, we’re going to face financial and human costs that will rival the current economic crises,” said Peter V. Lee, executive director for national health policy for the Pacific Business Group on Health and co-chairman of the Consumer Purchaser Disclosure Project, a nonprofit advocacy group. “These recommendations chart a course for reform that offer a solution to the current health care mess that is breaking the bank of government, business and individual Americans.”

The coalition recommends Congress and the administration set national priorities for improving quality; that it assures there are fair and easily understandable national standards for measuring hospitals, doctors and other clinicians; collects the results and makes them available to improve care; and builds on public-private partnerships.

These recommendations build on work already in progress; now, the coalition says, we need to get providers, business, consumers and government behind the common agenda of collecting standard information so we can improve the quality of care while reducing what we spend.

The Pacific Business Group on Health, which represents 50 large companies which provide health care coverage to more than three million Americans, is one of the members of the coalition, serving on the group’s Steering Committee.

“These recommendations are historic – reflecting the coming together of a very diverse set of groups around the common agenda of assuring that performance measurement is the platform for creating a new and better health-care system,” said Lee.

To support and catalyze these efforts, Stand for Quality identifies distinct roles for the public and private sectors to work in partnership to measure quality and use those results to drive continuous improvement. Measurement and reporting of health care services are crucial to achieving the essential goals of reform – quality, affordability, and access for all.

The full recommendations and a list of the 165 groups supporting them can be found at www.standforquality.org.

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The nonprofit Pacific Business Group on Health has advocated for better health care since 1989. Its members are influential proponents of better quality and more affordable health care.

The Consumer Purchaser Disclosure Project, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and participating members, brings together consumers, businesses and labor unions to ensure performance information about doctors, hospitals and treatments is drives improvement and supports patients needing to make more informed choices.