

HEALTHCARE
LEADERSHIP
COUNCIL

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your leadership in wellness and disease prevention. The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare, applauds the "Medicare Better Health Rewards Program Act of 2012" as a necessary step to ensure that America's seniors are healthier, and that efforts to engage the patient in managing their health will increase positive outcomes.


Chronic disease accounts for over 70 percent of all healthcare spending. By making strides in wellness and disease prevention, we can truly make a difference in health and healthcare spending, especially within the Medicare program.

The Better Health Rewards Program legislation will align incentives to encourage Medicare beneficiaries to take greater advantage of existing prevention offerings prescribed by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). With this bill, the new Medicare annual wellness visit becomes a powerful platform to empower patients to make lifestyle improvements that will result in better health outcomes.

The experience of HLC members reaffirms that prevention works, and evidence-based interventions can have a dramatic impact on improving health as well as reducing healthcare costs. The *HLC Wellness Compendium* highlights many successful, metrics-driven private sector wellness and prevention initiatives with a potential to be scaled up by the public sector to serve larger populations.

Thank you for your leadership and for introducing this important legislation. Please feel free to have your staff contact me or Teresa de Vries at tdevries@hlc.org or (202) 449-3436 if you have any questions or if HLC can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Mary R. Grealy
President