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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 29, 2010

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TECHNOLOGY
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND
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REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

DEPUTY WHIP

Dr. Donald Berwick
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Dr. Berwick:

At the Senate Finance Committee hearing on November 17, 2010 you offered to meet with any Member of Congress who reaches out on an individual level.ⁱ

In your remarks at the Senate Finance hearing, you stated "I want to have dialogue with you and all the Members of Congress...any request at an individual level to meet with any Member of Congress that's come my way I have said yes to and done it and I look forward to ongoing dialogue and exchange with this committee and all Members of Congress, it's my job to do that."ⁱⁱ

Thank you for your stated desire for ongoing dialogue and exchange with Congressional committees and any Member of Congress.

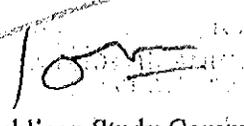
As a practicing physician for over two decades, author of a comprehensive health care reform proposal, H.R. 3400, the Empowering Patients First Act, and Chairman of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), I believe that an in-depth discussion with you on your work at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, specifically as it relates to patient-centered quality care, would be beneficial to our work on health care in the 112th Congress.

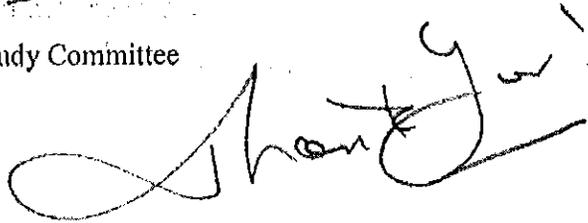
Many are truly concerned about your statement in June 2009, that "the decision is not whether or not we will ration care – the decision is whether we will ration with our eyes open,"ⁱⁱⁱ the arguments in your book, *Escape Fire*, and statement in 2006 that Britain's National Health Service (NHS) "is not just a national treasure; it is a global treasure."^{iv}

It is my desire that we may work together to put patients and doctors, rather than the federal bureaucracy, in charge of their personal health care decisions. I urge you to work with Congress and follow through on the Administration's promise of an "an unmatched level of transparency, participation and accountability across the entire Administration."^v

Please follow up with my senior Health Legislative Assistant, Emily Murry, in my office at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] to schedule a meeting before the end of the year.

Yours truly,


Rep. Tom Price, M.D.
Chairman, U.S. House Republican Study Committee



ⁱ "The United States Committee on Finance: Hearings – Strengthening Medicare and Medicaid: Taking Steps to Modernize America's Health Care System," November 17, 2010, Senate Finance web site, <http://finance.senate.gov/hearings/watch/?id=280ebc81-5056-a032-5254-1010c1e9b945>, accessed November 23, 2010

ⁱⁱ "Donald Berwick's Offer," November 19, 2010, YouTube web site, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrUZbR172ek>, accessed November 23, 2010

ⁱⁱⁱ "Rethinking Comparative Effectiveness Research," An Interview with Dr. Donald Berwick, Biotechnology HealthCare, June 2009, Biotechnology HealthCare web site, <http://www.biotechnologyhealthcare.com/journal/fulltext/6/2/BH0602035.pdf>, accessed November 23, 2010

^{iv} "Steadying the NHS" by Donald Berwick and Sheila Leatherman, BMJ July 29, 2006, p. 255

^v "Statement from the President on Sunshine Week," the White House press release, March 16, 2010, White House web site, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/statement-president-sunshine-week>, accessed November 23, 2010