



American Academy of Physician Assistants

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November 21, 2008

The Honorable Tom Daschle
Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Office
451 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2734

Dear Senator Daschle:

On behalf of the nearly 75,000 clinically practicing physician assistants represented by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), we wish to congratulate you on your selection by President-Elect Obama as the nominee for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Your commitment to the availability of quality, affordable health care was well demonstrated during your tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, and the AAPA looks forward to working with you in enacting health care reform that benefits all Americans.

Today's weak economy, growing elderly population, and soaring health care costs demand that AAPA and its members work closely with the new Administration and Congress to develop and support reform proposals that meet the needs of the American people and match the principles of AAPA's policy agenda.

These principles include access to quality, affordable, cost-effective health care for all Americans; the use of evidence-based medicine; physician-directed teams of health care providers; optimal utilization of primary care; emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention; comprehensive medical liability reform; and payment mechanisms that are both portable and sustainable.

The time for change has indeed come, and the AAPA looks forward to working with you and the Obama-Biden Administration to make health coverage a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia B. Lord, M.H.S., PA-C
Cynthia B. Lord, M.H.S., PA-C
President

William F. Leinweber

William F. Leinweber
Executive Vice President/ Chief Executive Officer