



SETON

Healthcare Network

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Members of the
SETON Healthcare
Network:

BRACKENRIDGE HOSPITAL

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
OF AUSTIN

SETON EDGAR B. DAVIS

SETON HIGHLAND LAKES

SETON MEDICAL CENTER

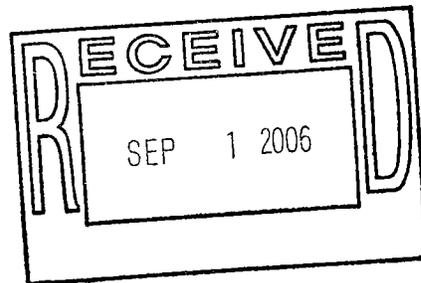
SETON NORTHWEST
HOSPITAL

SETON SHOAL CREEK

SETON SOUTHWEST
HOSPITAL

August 22, 2006

Citizens' Health Care Working Group
7201 Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 575
Bethesda, MD 20814



Dear Members of the Working Group:

As one of the local ministries of Ascension Health, the Seton Family of Hospitals would like to offer our comments and support in behalf of the Working Group's Interim Recommendations. By way of background, we operate the regional trauma center that serves eleven central Texas counties, two neonatal intensive care units serving thirteen counties, and the Children's Hospital of Austin that sees children from a 46 county region. We are the safety net for central Texas.

We strongly support all the recommendations in the study, but we agree with Ascension's comments that three in particular have resonance because of our commitment to "Healthcare that Leaves No One Behind" and its goal of 100 percent access in the communities we serve:

- Recommendation 1: It should be public policy that all Americans have affordable health care.
- Recommendation 4: Support integrated community health networks.
- Recommendation 6: Fundamentally restructure the way that palliative care, hospice care and other end-of-life services are financed and provided, so that people living with advanced incurable conditions have increased access to these services in the environment they choose.

Additionally, "Financing Health Care that Works for All Americans" is of great importance. Texas has an uninsured rate of 25% which creates a tremendous strain on public and private health care providers throughout our state. Our citizens, both adults and children, do not have adequate ready, affordable access to either prevent or treat illnesses and injuries. We believe that some sort of federal solution based on "principles of fairness, efficiency, and shared responsibility", using a variety of dedicated revenue streams, is crucial if we are to effect meaningful change to our delivery system.

Thank you for the many, many hours of work that you have invested in this process.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Barnett
President & CEO

cc: Anthony Tersigni
Susan Nestor Levy

Our mission inspires us to care for and improve the health of those we serve with a special concern for the sick and the poor.

We are called to Service of the Poor, Reverence, Integrity, Wisdom, Creativity, and Dedication.

