

November 15, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a week since the elections and I believe many of us—regardless of our politics—feel the current of extremism and intolerance troubling. There are many things at risk, including the Affordable Care Act, which at its core improved access to health care through insurance to all Americans and was a simple and laudable achievement.

Health care is a complicated business. There is no easy remedy for our healthcare system's current ailments. We are all proud of the national recognition we have earned as innovative and caring. We provide the most sophisticated care imaginable to many of the most challenged communities in America. Three million people live in our footprint, many of whom have been the beneficiaries of a model of care that aims to keep people well and provide comprehensive care that keeps them out of a hospital bed unless absolutely needed. We have been huge supporters of the pathway set by the Affordable Care Act and its emphasis on value based payments. We began down this path over 20 years ago because it is the right thing to do.

At this point, it is not possible to know exactly what "the plan" is for the incoming administration. Everything is pure speculation and inadequate. We have nonetheless been focused on understanding and considering possibilities since last Wednesday morning. We are drawing on the expertise of our advocacy groups, union partners and internal and external experts.

Most important at this moment are our values—we accept and treat all equally and with excellence—no matter where you come from, who you worship, who you love, the language you speak, or the color of your skin. All of you make this happen—you work hard, cherish team work and believe in our mission.

My promise to you is that we will be as nimble and forceful as we can be to lead and to preserve our vision and mission. This is our responsibility and we will be tireless.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Safyer, MD  
President and Chief Executive Officer

