

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
CSG GOVERNING BOARD**

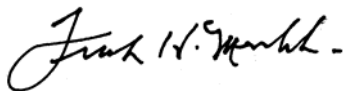
Resolution on Health Care Quality

- WHEREAS**, Research has demonstrated that as much as half of all health care services delivered in the United States does not meet accepted standards of quality;
- WHEREAS**, As many as 98,000 deaths occur each year due to medical errors, according to the Institute of Medicine;
- WHEREAS**, Another 57,000 deaths occur each year because the care consumers received was not appropriate, according to the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA);
- WHEREAS**, Poor health care quality costs the United States more than \$1 billion per year in avoidable hospital costs and more than \$11.5 billion in lost workdays;
- WHEREAS**, The *National Healthcare Quality Report* provided substantial evidence that the gap between what medical science has demonstrated to be effective care and the care that patients actually receive is pervasive and that care varies tremendously across regions, states and communities, even for the most common medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and asthma;
- WHEREAS**, Some analysts contend that as much as 30-40 percent of our health care dollar goes to ineffective, inappropriate care, and that targeted improvements to health care quality could improve the efficiency of the U.S health care system and save health care payers money;
- WHEREAS**, State, federal and private sector reimbursement systems have built-in disincentives for investing in and delivering high quality health care because all health care providers and professionals are paid the same regardless of quality; and
- WHEREAS**, Many of the problems with inappropriate and poor quality care could be prevented through improving systems of care, addressing financial disincentives to improving quality, informing and engaging consumers in health care decisions more effectively and implementing health information technology;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that The Council of State Governments supports efforts by states to address inadequate health care quality and encourages states to consider using the following means to improve health care quality:

- disease management
- chronic disease prevention and control programs
- adoption of evidence-based practices
- reporting and public disclosure of health care performance data
- pay for performance initiatives
- use of health information technology, such as electronic prescriptions and electronic medical records
- partnerships with the private and nonprofit sectors
- collaborative efforts with the federal government.

Adopted this 29th Day of September 2004, at the
CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum
In Anchorage, Alaska



Governor Frank Murkowski
2004 CSG President



State Senator John Hottinger
2004 CSG Chair