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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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November 29, 2010

Dr. Donald M. Berwick  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Berwick:

In light of your recent appearance before the Senate Finance Committee, I write to request that you personally brief Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce before the end of the session. Although I was happy to see you finally appear before a Congressional committee to discuss both your work at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), you would agree that your time before the Senate Finance Committee was short.

The American people are clearly focused on how the new health care law will change their health care options and decisions. I believe that both Members of Congress and Administration officials responsible for implementing the law owe it to the American people to conduct open and honest public discussions on its effects and implementation. As your appearance before the Senate made clear, your position places you in charge of the substantial changes to Medicare and Medicaid that are expected in coming weeks, months, and years.

Thus, I would like to ask you to appear for a briefing with Republican Members of the Committee. I will invite my Democratic colleagues to participate if they wish to do so. Since our July request to Chairman Waxman to invite you to testify was not granted, I believe a briefing now with Committee Members will provide the next best opportunity to begin an honest dialogue.

Letter to Dr. Donald M. Berwick  
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I appreciate your timely consideration of this request. I believe many would respond favorably to your willingness to brief Members of the House before the Majority changes hands in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton  
Ranking Member

cc: Henry A. Waxman, Chairman