



William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair

December 22, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Hatch:

On behalf of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), I am writing in support of Marilyn Tavenner's nomination to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We hope that the Senate will confirm her as the CMS administrator.

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of 66 national nonprofit organizations representing millions of older Americans across the country. We are concerned with the well-being of America's older population and committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena.

As the baby boom generation ages into eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid coverage and the need for long-term services and supports, CMS will need the kind of leadership Ms. Tavenner can provide. LCAO is looking forward to working with you and Ms. Tavenner on proposals to enforce the financially sound provision of uniform, dependable, affordable, quality health care to elder Americans and individuals with disabilities.

In particular, we support effective implementation of the Affordable Care Act. For example, its provisions to strengthen Medicare coverage of preventive health care and better coordinate care can reduce expenditures, improve quality of care and enhance health outcomes. We want to partner with CMS in fighting against fraud, waste and abuse of the Medicare and Medicaid programs and to protect vulnerable elders receiving services both in nursing homes and in community-based settings. We support the ACA's expansion of Medicaid options to allow older people with chronic conditions to remain at home and we want to work with CMS in carrying them out.

Ms. Tavenner is eminently qualified to lead CMS at this critical time, and we hope that the Senate will vote to confirm her as the agency's administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Minnix, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William L. Minnix, Jr.
President and CEO, LeadingAge
Chair, LCAO

p.s. While the LCAO as a whole supports Ms. Tavenner's nomination, this doesn't necessarily represent the position of every individual LCAO member organization.