



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

June 20, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

On behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), we congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We look forward to working with you in your new capacity on bipartisan policy solutions in health care. We would also like to share with you some highlights of our current work that may be of interest to you:

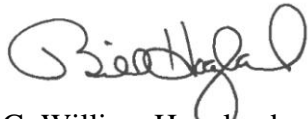
- Over the next year, BPC's **Health Care Delivery System Reform Initiative** – led by former Senators Tom Daschle and Bill Frist, former Congressional Budget Office Director Alice Rivlin and former Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chair Congressman Jim McCrery – will issue a series of recommendations for transitioning to a value-based health care delivery system in the U.S. This work builds on BPC's April 2013 report, [A Bipartisan Rx for Patient-Centered Care and System-Wide Cost Containment](#), legislative activity on Medicare physician payment, and lessons learned in the implementation of new models of care across the country.
- Under the leadership of former Senators Daschle and Frist, Director Rivlin, and former Governor and HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, BPC's **Long-term Care Initiative** will produce policy options in 2015 for sustainable delivery and financing of long-term services and supports (LTSS) at the individual, family, state, and national levels.
- This fall, BPC's **CEO Council on Health and Innovation** will share the innovative strategies they have used to improve the health of individuals, communities, and the health care system. They will also issue a "call to action" for other large and medium-sized employers to join them in taking action each of these areas. With support from former Senators Daschle and Frist and a multi-stakeholder Health Care Advisory Board, members of the CEO Council include the chief executives of Aetna, Bank of America, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, The Coca-Cola Company, Institute for Advanced Health, McKinsey & Company, Verizon, and Walgreens.
- BPC's **Health Innovation Initiative** will submit comments on the April 2014 *FDASIA Health IT Report* released by the Food and Drug Administration, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, and the Federal Communications Commission, which is in significant alignment with BPC's recommendations in [An Oversight Framework for Assuring Patient Safety in Health IT](#). BPC will continue to fine-tune its

recommendations for implementing the oversight framework and actions needed by government and private sector stakeholders. The Health Innovation Initiative will also continue to track progress on its recommendations for improving electronic information sharing, personalized medicine, and the use of big data to improve health and health care.

- Next week, BPC's **Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative** will publish *Teaching Nutrition and Physical Activity in Medical School: Training Doctors for Prevention-Oriented Care*, with former Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, former HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, the American College of Sports Medicine and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. BPC also works to advance recommendations in its 2012 report [\*Lots to Lose: How America's Health and Obesity Crisis Threatens our Economic Future\*](#) to promote healthy institutions (working with the Department of Defense Healthy Base Initiative), demonstrate the value of prevention, and align agriculture and nutrition policy with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and others at HHS to advance constructive policy solutions to improve health and health care in America.

Sincerely,



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Senior Vice President  
Bipartisan Policy Center



Katherine Hayes, J.D.  
Health Policy Director  
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#### **About the Bipartisan Policy Center**

Founded in 2007 by former U.S. Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole, and George Mitchell, Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) is a non-profit organization that drives principled solutions through rigorous analysis, reasoned negotiation and respectful dialogue. With projects in multiple issue areas, BPC combines politically balanced policymaking with strong, proactive advocacy and outreach. <http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/>.