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May 6, 2019

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy and Senator Smith:

We are writing on behalf of CAQH CORE® to commend your efforts to reduce administrative costs and burdens across the healthcare system. The CAQH Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE) is a non-profit, national multi-stakeholder collaborative that streamlines electronic healthcare administrative data exchange and improves health plan-provider interoperability through an integrated model of operating rule development, testing, adoption, measurement, and maintenance.

CAQH CORE Participating Organizations represent more than 75 percent of insured Americans, including healthcare providers, health plans, electronic health record (EHR) and other vendors/clearinghouses, state and federal government entities, associations, and standards development organizations. CAQH CORE is designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the author of federal operating rules for the HIPAA administrative healthcare transactions.

The U.S. healthcare industry has been working collaboratively for more than two decades to reduce the resources spent on administrative functions. As reported in the 2018 CAQH Index®, the industry resource for benchmarking progress towards adoption of electronic healthcare administrative transactions, positive progress is being made to automate and reduce the cost of administrative functions. However, continued efforts are needed to significantly reduce the volume of expensive, time-consuming manual transactions and adapt to the changing administrative needs of a value-based healthcare system.

We support your efforts in the “Reducing Administrative Costs and Burdens in Health Care Act of 2019” to reduce unnecessary administrative costs and burdens across the healthcare system by establishing a renewed urgency to promote collaborative engagement to drive progress. In particular, we support your language encouraging adoption of electronic transactions and operating rules across states through multi-stakeholder processes, pilot programs to test new processes and address barriers, and a coordinating function to provide technical assistance, consistently evaluate outcomes, share best practices, and apply learnings on a national scale to accelerate impact.

Thank you for your leadership to reduce administrative burden and expense, and for the opportunity to provide technical assistance.

Sincerely,



April Todd
SVP, CAQH CORE and Explorations



Robin J. Thomashauer
CAQH President



Susan Turney, MD, MS, FACMPE, FACP
CAQH CORE Board Chair
President and CEO, Marshfield Clinic Health System

cc:

CAQH CORE Board Members

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