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July 29, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Kent Conrad  
Chairman  
Senate Budget Committee  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairmen Baucus and Conrad:

On behalf of AARP's more than 40 million members, we are pleased to endorse the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Act of 2009 (S. 1213). Your legislation would create an independent Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and provide increased, stable funding to maintain our investment in research comparing the effectiveness of various treatments for given conditions.

AARP strongly believes that development of more scientifically valid, objective information comparing treatment options is a fundamental building block for health care reform. According to some estimates, less than half of all medical care is supported by adequate evidence about its effectiveness. We believe such research is needed to improve the quality and efficiency of our health care system by giving consumers and clinicians the information they need to make optimal decisions about the most appropriate health care options.

The independent, non-profit entity your legislation would create to conduct and disseminate this research includes broad stakeholder input to set priorities and a transparent process – essential features for advancing this work. Equally important is that you fund this institute through an all-payer system with significant, stable funding to ensure continuation of this valuable investment.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact this legislation. If you have any questions please contact me or have your staff contact Paul Cotton of our Government Relations staff at 202-434-3770.

Sincerely,

David P. Sloane  
Senior Vice President  
Government Relations & Advocacy