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PIPC Congratulates Governor Sebelius on Her Nomination as the Next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services

Washington, DC – March 3, 2009 – The Partnership to Improve Patient Care (PIPC) congratulates Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius on being named yesterday by President Obama to lead the Department of Health and Human Services.

With Secretary-designate Sebelius's guidance, the Obama Administration will endeavor to reform and improve the health care system through coverage expansion, health technology advancement and quality improvement. In addition, Sebelius will also be responsible for a department of 65,000 personnel that conducts public health, food safety and scientific research and administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs that serve over 90 million Americans nationwide. Among the pressing issues the department faces, PIPC urges the secretary-designate to conduct new, stimulus-funded comparative effectiveness research (CER) through open and transparent processes.

PIPC and its member organizations stand ready to assist Secretary-designate Sebelius. C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition President Carlea Bauman states, *"President Obama affirmed in his address to a joint session of Congress last week that we 'will launch a new effort to conquer a disease that has touched the life of nearly every American by seeking a cure for cancer in our time.' We stand ready to work with President Obama and Secretary-designate Sebelius to conduct well-designed CER in an effort to combat this deadly disease. By enhancing information about treatment options, advancing patient care and continuing to foster medical innovation, this new effort will change many lives for the better."*

Furthermore, PIPC looks forward to working with the Secretary-designate and her team to develop studies that support individualized decision-making. Dr. Jane Delgado, President and CEO of National Alliance for Hispanic Health, a national Hispanic health advocacy organization, explains, *"We have an extraordinary opportunity to remake our national health research effort so that it delivers good science by finally reflecting the diversity that is our strength as a nation. The greatest value of a CER effort will be its ability to provide meaningful and accurate information. CER, by having information available by gender, race and ethnicity, age, disability and other factors that have an impact on health can support a patient and provider with the information they need to make the best treatment decision for an individual patient."*

We look forward to working with Secretary-designate Sebelius to improve the health of all Americans.

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