



July 30, 2010

The Honorable Erskine Bowles
Co-Chair, National Commission
on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform
1650 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform is charged with the enormous task of identifying policies to reduce the nation's debt and improve the fiscal condition of the Federal Government. Clearly, there are no easy answers.

As you begin to explore options, I would like to introduce you to the Alliance for Home Health Quality and Innovation (Alliance). The Alliance was formed in 2008 to work in collaboration with governmental officials on health quality initiatives, spearhead discussions with national leaders on the future of the Medicare home health benefit and support its activities through research. The Alliance represents the one organization where all of home health stakeholders are gathered under one umbrella including the National Association for Home Care and Hospice and the Visiting Nurse Associations of America along with the CEOs from the various home health organizations.

Today's home health care provides a higher level of clinical sophistication in a patient preferred setting that is more cost effective than facility based care. Home health's quality care helps reduce overall Medicare expenditures by avoiding unplanned and costly hospital readmissions.

Home health is a critical component of the health care system of the future that meets the needs of a rapidly aging population, keeps pace with escalating health care costs, and serves patients' demands for high-quality health care – all within the comfort and dignity of the home. Quality home health services are especially valuable for people suffering with acute, chronic and rehabilitative conditions. Our nurses and therapists are trained to treat patients with a range of disease states. Some of our best efforts are focused on the most costly conditions to the Medicare program including congestive heart failure (CHF); chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); and diabetes.

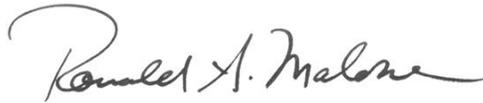
The value of home health clinical efforts and improved results are outlined in the documents included for your review:

- *Home Health Care: An Essential Solution to America's Health Care Challenges*
- Avalere study on home health cost savings related to most costly conditions
- White papers on home health's clinical engagement with specific illnesses

As the Commission continues its deliberations, please know that our home health professionals will be pleased to further outline the components of our services and the research to date about our care. I would welcome the opportunity, as chairman for the Alliance, to meet with you to further discuss home health's role in reducing the federal deficit and in assisting with new and innovate models for our country's healthcare delivery system.

Please feel free to reach me at ron.malone@gentiva.com or at 864-728-5158.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Ronald Malone
Alliance Chairman and Co-Founder