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New Bundled Payments Initiative Offers Promise to Advance the Coordinated Health Care that America's Patients Urgently Need

Statement of Debra L. Ness, President, National Partnership for Women & Families and Leader, Campaign for Better Care

“The Bundled Payments Initiative, announced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services yesterday, is the kind of innovative payment reform that offers real promise for improving the quality and coordination of health care. This initiative is well worth testing and we commend the Administration for its flexible approach to incentivizing providers to test it.

At a time when patients, and especially those with multiple chronic health problems, are left to fend for themselves in a health care system in which many providers do not talk to each other and care is fragmented, we urgently need new approaches that will improve communication, collaboration and coordination across providers and settings. This kind of payment reform has the potential to do just that and promote better continuity of care, fewer errors and ultimately lower costs for the program and patients.

All patients and their family caregivers – and especially those who are most vulnerable and are heavy users of the health care system -- have a tremendous amount at stake as reform is implemented. We applaud the Administration for incentivizing Medicare providers to make meaningful changes in how they deliver care so that patients receive better care, with better results, at lower cost.”

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The National Partnership for Women & Families is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy group dedicated to promoting fairness in the workplace, access to quality health care and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family.

The Campaign for Better Care is led by the National Partnership for Women & Families, Community Catalyst, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the National Health Law Program — and funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies.