



## Happy New Year to the Doctors for America Family!

December 29, 2010

### Reflecting on 2010

#### DFA Activities

Largest ever health professionals March for Health Reform.

Popular Anatomy of Health Reform webinars attended by over a 1000 physicians and medical students.

Educated peers and communities about health reform from Oregon to Florida to Texas to California.

Spoke against health reform lawsuits in 21 states.

Conference calls with HHS Sec. Sebelius, CMS Administrator Dr. Berwick, Health IT National Coordinator Dr. Blumenthal, primary care experts Drs. Bodenheimer and Starfield.

Participated in White House stakeholder meetings to discuss improving the delivery system with Dr. Don Berwick and strengthening prevention with Surgeon General Regina Benjamin.

Launched *Progress Notes*, our

Dear Colleague:

Happy New Year! A few weeks ago, a group of us were wrapping up a Doctors for America (DFA) conference call, and we started reflecting on what all 15,000 of us have been able to accomplish in 2010. We came up with an impressive list. It was a testament to thousands of doctors and medical students like you who never stopped believing that we could play a major role in shaping the health care system.

We began 2010 with pundits saying health reform was dead along with the hopes of millions who needed it. Yet you did not waver, and two and a half months later, the impossible came to pass thanks to an extraordinary outpouring of advocacy from community members - especially doctors and medical students who spoke up in our communities and marched on Washington. After the President signed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in March, Doctors for America members didn't rest. Recognizing how much was still to be done, we joined forces to get educated and educate the public about the new law, spoke up in opposition to lawsuits against the ACA, and joined conference calls with national policy experts and members of the administration.

When we've spoken with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, CMS Administrator Dr. Don Berwick, and key staff in Congress and the Administration, they've all had one consistent thing to say: **Doctors for America members played a key role in passing health reform - and our input will be critical to making health reform a success for millions of Americans.**

In 2011, our challenge is to ensure that the promise of the health reform law becomes a reality. **This year, we can help lay the foundation for a health care system that all of us can be proud of - and we can do so by ensuring that physicians and medical**

daily blog by Doctors for America members.

### Health Reform Highlights

See "[Health Reforms That Are Happening](#)" to learn about provisions that your patients may be able to use.

March 23, 2010: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act becomes law.

July 1, 2010: Pre-existing condition plans start.

Sept 23, 2010: Key consumer protections come into effect.

### Get Ready to Do More in 2011!

Ready to take action now?

1. Sign and share [our petition](#) to tell the next Congress that doctors do not want health reform repealed.
2. Make a year-end [tax-deductible donation](#) to Doctors for America!

### students have a voice in the key elements of implementation.

With your help, we'll kick off the year with a public display and a media blitz around our [Anti-Repeal Petition](#). We'll hold education and advocacy training sessions for DFA members so we're equipped to fight for change. And we'll work to make sure that frontline doctors and medical students have a seat at the table and are heard every step of the way, from Washington, D.C. to our state capitols and local city councils.

There are many challenges before us. But Doctors for America is filled with doctors and medical students from every corner of this country whose core values are grounded in a shared calling: serving patients to the best of our ability in a system that is fair and equitable. These values are the source of our collective strength. And while we have a diversity of opinions and ideas, we know that these values are what will enable us collectively to solve the big challenges we face in 2011.

Thank you for all that you've done in 2010 - and for being the committed, passionate physicians and medical students that you are.

Best wishes for 2011,

Vivek, Alice, Ken, Josh, Zee, Carol, Chris, Arun, Evan, Mona, Jason, Raj, Youssra, Harold, Becky, Lisa, and the rest of the Doctors for America Team