



**BARBARA L. MCANENY, MD**

PRESIDENT

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January 23, 2019

The Honorable Deborah A. Armstrong  
New Mexico House of Representatives  
2015 Dietz Place NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Re: AMA Support for House Bill 88

Dear Representative Armstrong:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I write to state our support for House Bill (H.B.) 88, the “Health Care Value and Access Commission Act,” based on its important provisions to develop an All Payer Claims Database (APCD) in New Mexico. The AMA has long supported the development of APCDs, recognizing the value of aggregated, independent claims data in many state and national health initiatives.

For example, the AMA advocates for improved price transparency in health care, an issue given great attention in New Mexico over the last several years. We believe APCDs have the potential to advance not only price transparency as it pertains to benefits consumers purchase, but also assist policymakers in understanding price variation, trends in costs and gaps in service.

Additionally, as value-based contracting continues to grow and payers and providers explore alternative payment models, physicians and other health care providers, as well as payers, will be able to benefit from APCD data to evaluate the feasibility and impact of such contract arrangements. Additionally, state stakeholders may use the data to better evaluate the changes in spending, utilization and quality that result from certain payment models. The AMA sees much promise in the availability of independent health care data to help move the needle on alternative payment models and value-based care.

APCDs’ data can also be excellent tools for studying utilization trends, health care disparities, the impact of chronic conditions and more broadly, population health. With a state as ethnically and culturally diverse as New Mexico, an APCD could be an excellent tool in the state’s efforts to address and improve health outcomes among vulnerable populations.

Finally, as mergers between various health care entities continue in New Mexico and across the country, APCD data can help policymakers evaluate their impact. After a merger, do costs rise or

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fall? Is there better access to care? Are there shifts in utilization? A void exists in the evaluation of health care mergers and their impact on patients and communities, and the ability to better study these mergers will help regulators as they consider them in the future.

Moving forward, we hope you will consider incorporating into your legislation better representation of physicians on the Health Care Value and Access Commission (Commission), as well as specifically in the development of the APCD. As you know, physicians can offer a valuable frontline perspective when it comes to evaluating health care policies and proposals, and we believe the Commission would greatly benefit from physician participation.

In conclusion, we thank you for your leadership on this important effort and look forward to working with you and the New Mexico Medical Society to advance this legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Carroll, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at [emily.carroll@ama-assn.org](mailto:emily.carroll@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4967.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara L. McAneny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Barbara L. McAneny, MD

cc: New Mexico Medical Society