



December 28, 2009

Tracy Plouck
State Medicaid Director
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans (Medicaid)
50 W. Town Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Plouck:

I write to express our support for the State of Ohio's proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for pediatric quality improvement resources through federal Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Quality Demonstration Grants.

Two years ago, the Ohio Business Roundtable, comprised of the chief executives of the state's major businesses, took up the challenge of health care systems reform in our state. Our comprehensive diagnostic and benchmarking has uncovered the areas of greatest opportunity for improving our health system – cutting across population health, cost, quality and access.

In partnership with many stakeholders, we are now implementing solutions in a few focused areas. One such partnership is the *Solutions for Patient Safety* initiative bringing together the business community, especially the Cardinal Health Foundation, and the state's eight children's hospitals. Our goal is simple but compelling – Ohio will be safest place in America for children to receive health care. The Ohio CHIPRA application builds on and compliments the success of this initiative by even more comprehensively addressing the quality of health care delivered to Ohio's youngest and most vulnerable population.

Ohio's CHIPRA proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio. The proposal leverages Ohio's existing children's health care infrastructure, including our world class children's hospitals, pediatricians, perinatal providers, professional and family advocacy groups, researchers and state government. And it builds upon these collaborative efforts to create what we believe could become the national model for quality care – and, in so doing, achieving the best birth outcomes, dramatically improving developmental trajectories, and making our state the safest place in America for children to receive health care.

We support your proposal. We especially applaud the vision your team has developed, as we believe it will build capacity to ensure quality health care and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio, while at the same time slowing the growth of healthcare spending in this state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Stoff".

Richard A. Stoff