



November 4, 2010

GAO Health Care
Attention: PCOR Institute Board of Governors
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

To Whom It May Concern:

As representatives of organizations that advocate on behalf of people with chronic diseases and disabilities, we were saddened to learn that Andrew Imparato, President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities, will not be able to serve on the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Board of Governors due to his new position with the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. His experience as a vocal advocate for the patient and disability community will be greatly missed. As such, we strongly urge the GAO to appoint another representative of the patient advocacy community to again fill this position.

While we are impressed by the expertise of the people who currently serve on the Board, we believe that the voice of people with chronic diseases and disabilities must be adequately represented, which would mean that Mr. Imparato's seat should be filled by a patient representative. It is our hope that you will look at the wide range of qualified patient advocates that applied to serve on the Board last June.

When filling this slot, it is also important to realize the unique value that a representative of the patient advocacy community would bring to the Board. Not only would a patient advocate be able to speak on behalf of patients with chronic conditions, but he or she would also have access to the networks that exist within the community. Being able to relay the conduct of PCORI back to the advocacy community would ensure that the decisions made by PCORI are seen as credible and appropriate in the eyes of advocacy organizations and their constituents.

We strongly ask that you take this opportunity to fill this slot that was vacated by a patient advocate with another member of the patient advocacy community.

Sincerely,

Myrl Weinberg, CAE
President
National Health Council

David Shern, PhD
Convener
National Working Group On
Evidence-Based Health Care

Tony Coelho
Chairman
Partnership to Improve
Patient Care