



NATIONAL  
QUALITY FORUM

# ***Legislative Update*** **CSAC**

*July 14, 2016*

# Congress has not returned to “regular order;” Presidential Campaign is unusual



# Expectations Were Low Regarding Healthcare Legislative Activity

**But there has been a surprising amount, much of it bipartisan**

## **Areas where NQF has provided technical assistance**

- Health information Technology
- Telehealth
- Medicaid
- Chronic care
- End of life care
- Rural health

# Technology Related Bills

## **Bi-partisan desire to “fix” interoperability through legislation**

- House Cures bill passed in 2015; Senate companion bill still a work in progress
- Senate HELP held 6 hearings
- TRUST-IT (S. 2141) – NQF role included

## **Bi-partisan desire to advance Telehealth in Medicare**

- Connect for Health Act (S.2484; H.R. 4442)
- Quality measures included assess access, clinical outcomes, diagnostic accuracy, patient quality of life, etc

# Expect to See a Focus on Medicaid in 2017

## **Senate Finance – Medicaid Reporting**

- Exploring current state or future policy effort

## **Republican House Medicaid Task Force**

- No policy has emerged but there is a great deal of prep for 2017

## **Focus on Populations or Services**

- Moms & Babies Bill (S.466; H.R. 4695)
- Medically complex children – ACE Kids Act (H.R. 546)
- Rep Pallone's interest in improving LTSS within Medicaid

# Medicare: Proposals to improve care for specific populations

**Senate Finance released bi-partisan policy proposals focused on improving chronic care in Dec 2015**

- NQF submitted a comment letter in response and participated in two follow up meetings
- Bill language has not emerged

**Senator Whitehouse proposed bill to improve palliative and end of life care via CMMI**

# NQF Rural Health Report has Generated Considerable Interest



# Senators Focused on Legislation & HHS

## **NQF Rural Report briefing raised visibility and interest**

- April 2016 briefing included Senators Franken (D-MN) & Barrasso (R-WY) plus 3 committee members
- Senator Franken expected to introduce a bill this week to improve rural health quality that includes a Rural MAP and support for endorsed measures
- Bi-partisan letter --Franken (D-MN) and Roberts (R-KN) -- plus others requests that HHS initiate a Rural MAP



# Opportunity: Quality experts plus policymakers

