OPEN LETTER TO FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS

May 1, 2014

Donald H. Polk, DO Chairman Federation of State Medical Boards

Dear Dr. Polk:

Last weekend, over the objections of dozens of patient groups, employers and telemedicine companies, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), under the leadership of your predecessor, approved a flawed model telemedicine policy that was drafted by a limited group of stakeholders involved in this important issue.

We are writing today to request that in your new role as the Chairman, you appoint another working group to review FSMB's model telemedicine policy. This time, we hope the FSMB will invite patient and employer groups like ours, who are the users of telemedicine, to express our views on its regulation.

We respect the FSMB's role as regulators and understand you seek to protect patients. However, we believe the policy approved last Saturday did not account for many of the safe, secure ways patients are accessing health care today, including "audio-only" telephone. We hope we can come together to help you and your members understand these important technologies and their impact on patients' lives. Our mutual goal is patient access to safe, secure telemedicine and this may be thwarted if the existing policy is allowed to stand.

Sincerely,

Amy Comstock Rick, J.D., CEO

Parkinson's Action Network

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Daie Sil III

Charles Myoglin

Al Shomm

Gail Gibson Hunt, President and CEO

National Alliance for Caregiving

Chuck Ingoglia, Senior Vice President

National Council for Behavioral Health

Ted Thompson, Vice President

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Joe Gaskins, President and CEO

United Spinal Association

Clif Gaus, CEO

Ju Buki

National Association of ACOs

Gretchen K. Goung

Gretchen Young, Senior Vice President

The ERISA Industry Committee

Lynda Honberg, Director, Partnerships

Family Voices