

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.
26TH DISTRICT, TEXAS



WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
2241 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7772

www.house.gov/burgess

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DISTRICT OFFICES:

1660 SOUTH STEMMONS FREEWAY
SUITE 230
LEWISVILLE, TX 75067
(972) 434-9700

1100 CIRCLE DRIVE
SUITE 200
FORT WORTH, TX 76119
(817) 531-8454

April 4, 2011

Thomas J. Manley
Chief Executive Officer
TMF Health Quality Institute
5918 W. Courtyard Drive
Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78730-5036

Dear Mr. Manley –

As a physician who has interacted with the TMF Health Quality Institute (TMF) in my years of private medical practice in North Texas, I am encouraged to see TMF is responding to the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization's (QIO) 10th Statement of Work, scheduled to be released during the month of April. As you are aware, acting under the guidance of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), QIOs monitor the appropriateness, effectiveness, and quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

With nearly 3 million Medicare beneficiaries calling Texas home, and population trends indicating this number will only continue to grow, healthcare will remain a top priority for our state. It is my hope that your long track record will be evaluated and you are given full and due consideration by CMS.

As a practicing physician I have had the opportunity to interact with QIOs. I believe in the work of QIOs to spur physician innovation and improvement, because I have seen those results first hand.

As the QIO for the State of Texas since 1984, TMF has earned the trust and respect from healthcare professionals and providers. TMF knows Texas providers and has long enjoyed the support of the Texas Medical Association. As well, TMF has a proven track record of success and measurable improvements in the quality and delivery of healthcare.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me or James Paluskiewicz, my Deputy Chief of Staff at (202) 225-7772 in my Washington Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Burgess".

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress