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Dear patients and community members:

For months now, we've been hearing the debate for Health Care Reform from law makers, media and other key community leaders. Although there's been a great deal of information discussed, most of us can agree that we need health care reform but what exactly does that mean. At Commonwealth Orthopaedics, we would like to share with you our thoughts and encourage you to voice your opinion with your elected representatives.

### Affordable Coverage for All

- All Americans should have affordable, portable health insurance that provides access to necessary, appropriate medical care.
- Decisions about appropriate medical treatment must be made by patients and their doctors.
- Patients must have the freedom to choose their doctor and direct access to specialty physicians.
- Families and individuals need to choose from a variety of affordable health insurance options. We support a blend of existing government programs with a robust private market of insurance products.

### Education is the Key to Prevention

- In order to control health care costs, we must live healthier lives which can be achieved through education and preventive medicine.
- People should have greater incentives for wellness and prevention.

### Insurance Market Reforms are Needed

- We support the elimination of pre-existing medical condition clauses and the elimination of lifetime caps.
- We support streamlined insurance claims processing to reduce the time and resources devoted to paperwork and to lower costs for patients, physicians and payers.

### Health Care Spending

- A large part of health care spending is due to the increased use of expensive diagnostic tests such as MRI and PET scans that doctors are increasingly pressured from patients to order.
- Doctors often order these tests out of fear due to the legal environment in which they practice. The cost of the flawed malpractice system is not just the price of insurance, but also the added costs of these unnecessary tests. Health care reform must include malpractice or tort reform to be meaningful and successful.