



Curtis applauds Boustany appointment to House Ways and Means Committee

For Immediate Release

Baton Rouge, LA - January 22, 2009 - Gary Curtis, president and chief executive officer of Louisiana Health Care Review (LHCR), said today the appointment of U.S. Representative Charles Boustany to the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives is an important victory for Louisiana.

LHCR is the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Louisiana, under contract with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. "Because the Ways and Means Committee has authority over Medicare and Medicaid, Rep. Boustany's appointment ensures that our state's health care interests will continue to be well-represented. This is critically important at a time when Louisiana is working with the federal government on a new health care reform initiative, as well as with the Obama Administration's promise of reforms at the national level," Curtis said.

Curtis listed Gov. Jindal's Health First proposal as well as President Obama's support of increased use of health information technology as two immediate efforts in which Rep. Boustany can provide both expertise and influence. Curtis also said that because Rep. Boustany is a physician, he will be in a position to ensure that health care policy focuses on the needs of the patient.

"With the appointment of Dr. Boustany to the most powerful committee in government, and Louisiana electing two other doctors to Congress, I know that the interests of Louisiana patients, beneficiaries and others who rely on our state's health care system will be in good hands," Curtis added.

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