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October 18, 2010

Our legislators and healthcare officials, working with Governor Bobby Jindal, are considering the implementation of a system of coordinated care for much of our states' population.

The proposed Coordinated Care Network is a product of over a decade of discussion and research among all of the healthcare stakeholders in Louisiana and three years of concentrated meetings and conversations. Our adults and children experience improved health and health outcomes when they have the opportunity to choose their providers, including their local pharmacist, and have those health care providers work together to plan and provide the best care for the patient. We have seen through studies and practice that the healthier patient is the one who has access to care, including their necessary prescription drugs. The healthier patient has an opportunity to have a face to face relationship with the physician, pharmacist, and other providers through planned care.

These are stark budget times, not only for families, but for small businesses and the State as well. Improved health outcomes and healthier citizens will save our families, businesses and the state, money.

For too long we have been at the bottom of the list of various health rankings. We all know that our family, friends and neighbors deserve a better health care delivery system.

Implementing a system of care that more than 85% of our nation's people enjoy is an appropriate decision for our state and our legislators to embrace.

With these considerations, the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association endorses and supports the medical home concept of care through the coordinated care model.

