

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S3-02-01
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Office of Clinical Standards and Quality (OCSQ)

NOV 21 2011

Kevin T. Kavanagh, MD, MS, FACS
Health Watch USA
3396 Woodhaven Drive
Somerset, KY 42503

Dear Dr. Kavanagh:

Thank you for your November 1, 2011 letter to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius sharing your correspondence to Senator Mitch McConnell. I am responding on the Secretary's behalf.

In your letter, you and over twenty business healthcare purchasing coalitions, including the Leapfrog Group, request Senator McConnell's support for repeal of the provision at Section 1865(b) in the Social Security Act that prohibits disclosure of an accreditation survey. You also call for subjecting all accrediting bodies to the Freedom of Information Act.

We currently share information within the limits of the statutory provisions that govern our work. Thank you for bringing your initiative to our attention. Please share this response with the other organizations that cosigned your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Conway MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Conway, M.D., M.Sc.
CMS Chief Medical Officer
Director, OCSQ