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# News Release

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## Health Workforce Reform Fundamental to Successful Health Reform, AAHC tells Obama Administration

WASHINGTON, April 23 - Health workforce reform is a crucial element of health system reform, the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) told the White House this week.

"We must change health workforce policy now to ensure we are ready to meet the numerous workforce challenges presented by system reforms when they take effect," said AAHC President Dr. Steven Wartman in a letter to the Administration's health policy advisors. "Our nation's patchwork health workforce policymaking is on the verge of being overwhelmed by rapidly intensifying social and economic pressures, which will be further magnified by health system reform," Wartman asserted.

Wartman cited the deteriorating condition of the nation's health workforce, detailed by the AAHC in its major report, *Out of Order, Out of Time: The State of the Nation's Health Workforce*. Wartman stressed that the Obama Administration must respond to these conditions with a "new and dynamic vision for the health workforce infrastructure," make the health workforce a priority health reform issue, and create a new, collaborative, multi-stakeholder health workforce planning body with a mission "to develop and implement comprehensive and coordinated national health workforce policy."

Declaring the AAHC's commitment to work with the Administration and other policymakers to successfully implement health system reform, Wartman nevertheless cautioned that, "Health system reform will not be successful unless it is accompanied by comprehensive health workforce reform."

The AAHC is a national non-profit association dedicated to advancing the nation's health and well-being through the vigorous leadership of academic health centers.

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