



June 6, 2011

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: United Nations High Level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases, September 2011**

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than 300,000 healthcare professionals in the United States and around the world whom we represent and, more importantly, the patients they treat, we would like to thank your Administration for your important support for the United Nations High-level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) to be held this fall. We urge you to continue to show leadership in this critical area by attending the September 19 & 20 meeting in person.

It is estimated that NCDs cause a staggering 60 percent of all deaths in the world each year, rupturing lives, families, communities and nations. Beyond the human pain and suffering diseases like cancer, heart disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and other NCDs cause, they are also a major barrier to economic development. In fact, the World Economic Forum has highlighted NCDs as one of the three most likely and most severe risks to the global economy. And yet despite these statistics, NCDs receive less than 3 percent of global development assistance.

Mr. President, your personal attendance in the High-level Meeting would send a clear and unmistakable message that this crisis deserves the world's attention. We believe the High-level Meeting represents an historic and unique opportunity to bring together government leaders and other stakeholders to address the growing NCD crisis and potentially save millions of people from cancer, heart disease, diabetes and respiratory diseases. This opportunity may not occur again.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with your Administration towards a successful High-level Meeting in September.

Sincerely,

John C. Lewin, MD  
Chief Executive Officer  
American College of Cardiology

David D. Gutterman, MD, FCCP  
President  
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Paula Trahan Rieger, RN, MSN, CAE, FAAN  
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Robert A. Wynbrandt  
Executive Director & General Counsel  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

CC: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State  
The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services  
Ambassador Susan Rice