



District of Columbia
Primary Care Association

Action And Innovation For Health Equity.

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Council of the District of Columbia

PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE on

**PR19-0057, "Director of the Department of Health
Dr. Mohammad N. Akhter Confirmation Resolution of 2011"**

February 10, 2011

**Committee on Health
The Honorable David A. Catania, Chairman**

By

**Sharon A. Baskerville
Chief Executive Officer
District of Columbia Primary Care Association**

Good afternoon, Chairman Catania and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Sharon Baskerville, CEO for the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA). DCPCA represents historic, safety net, community-based primary care providers and other key stakeholders who are committed to our mission of creating a health care system in the District of Columbia that allows for everyone to be covered and everyone to be cared for. As we set out to achieve health equity in the District through action and innovation, I am pleased to be here today to speak about the confirmation of Dr. Mohammad Akhter as Director of the DC Department of Health.

I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Dr. Mohammad Akhter. As former public health commissioner for the District in the early 1990s, the District will benefit from the return of a passionate and skilled public health leader. In building upon existing relationships and cultivating new ones, Dr. Akhter has the ability to have a transformative effect on the District’s health system. Having also served as the executive director of the American Public Health Association and senior associate dean for Public and International Health at the Howard University College of Medicine, Dr. Akhter brings with him a commitment to priorities that will support ongoing health care reform efforts in the District. In fact, Dr. Akhter was even a participant in the White House Forum on Health Reform back in March of 2009, where he discussed ideas on how to bring down health care costs and increase coverage with other health care leaders and policymakers from around the country. DCPCA is particularly encouraged by Dr. Mohammad Akhter’s history of implementing programs and initiatives around HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and his commitment to community-based primary care.

Chairman Catania, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify at this public roundtable before the Committee on Health. DCPCA remains firm in our commitment to advocate for all District residents. We have worked diligently to make sure that all low-income individuals receive the health care they are seeking at the right time, in the right place, and that their basic human rights are met with dignity and integrity. We look forward to continuing an established dialogue and shared work around the health priorities that will define the director’s tenure at the Department of Health. DCPCA commits its full support and availability to Dr. Akhter in making his leadership successful.

Thank you for providing us with this opportunity to support the director’s confirmation. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.