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On June 18, four members of Doctors for America attended the White House Physician Stakeholder Meeting on prevention and wellness. We brought with us the concerns and ideas of our members – physicians on the front lines in all 50 states who are fighting for health reform to bring quality, affordable, accessible health care to all Americans. Below is a series of emails we sent to our members surrounding the event.

June 17, 2009

Dear (Doctors for America member),

We've promised you that we would make your voices heard in Washington D.C. Now, we are bringing your voices directly to the White House. Doctors for America has been invited to the White House TOMORROW to speak with Nancy-Ann DeParle, the Director of the White House Office of Health Reform, and other members of the White House health reform team.

We're going to the White House to represent YOU -- so tell us what you want us to say: www.drsmforamerica.org/whitehouse.php

The discussion will focus on "**how we can use prevention and wellness initiatives to cut health care costs and improve individuals' health**" -- a topic that many of you have a lot to say about. Over the next 24 hours, **we will be reading every comment you submit** so that we can represent what members of Doctors for America think about health reform. Then, on Thursday at 2:30pm EST, you can watch the meeting live on whitehouse.gov.

This meeting is possible because of all of you. Thanks to your hard work, we have a seat at the table -- to represent what doctors on the front lines of the country's health care crisis have to say about our healthcare system. If you know doctors who are not members of Doctors for America, invite them to submit a comment as well -- now is the time for ALL physicians to get involved in this process.

[Send us your thoughts by TOMORROW, Thursday, June 18th at 8AM EST.](#)

Thank you for your ongoing commitment,
Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA
Alice Chen, MD
Rahul Rajkumar, MD, JD
Nikhil Wagle, MD

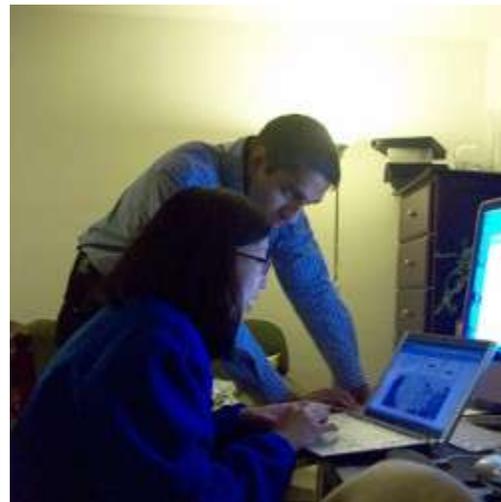
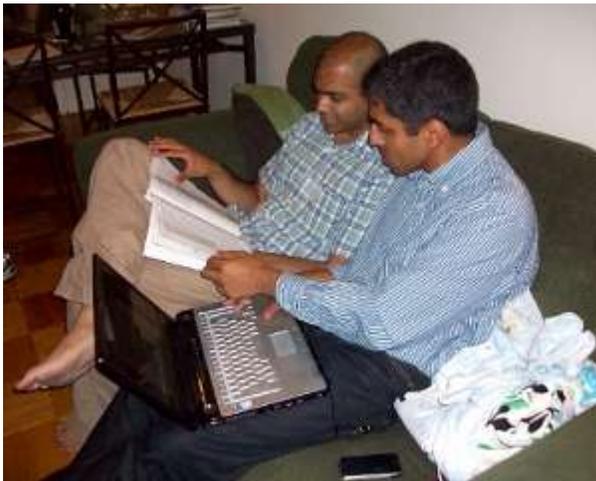
June 18, 2009

(Doctors for America member),

Yesterday Nick wrote to you to tell you that Doctors for America is going to the White House today to represent you. A lot of organizations say things like that, but then go and say whatever they want, not what you want.

Doctors for America is different.

There are four representatives of Doctors for America going to the White House today, and I wanted to show you the pictures they just sent me:



This is what they're doing at midnight, the night before going to the White House - they're sitting together in a borrowed apartment in DC, re-reading every comment you've ever sent.

- They're reading every submission on voicesofphysicians.org.
- Every comment you sent during our [public plan survey](#)
- Every comment you sent yesterday through our [prevention and wellness](#) page
- Every [idea](#) you've sent through our website

This is why we exist: because we believe, fervently, that the only way to bring about a better health care system is for doctors to be involved directly.

Last week, the AMA started talking about reform. Ever since, legislators and reporters have been asking us whether what the AMA is saying speaks for all doctors. I always tell them the same thing: through Doctors for America, doctors speak for themselves.

Doctors for America isn't just an organization. It's a movement. What you're doing has never



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been done before. Never before have this many doctors, from across the country stepped up to personally get involved.

This is the only way we can make it happen. We *need* your voice, and we need thousands of more voices too. For doctors to make this kind of impact we all need to speak up.

Doctors for America isn't going into the White House alone today. It's going armed with your thoughts and your ideas. And that's the way we want it to be.

Don't forget that you can watch the forum live, at 2:30pm EST on whitehouse.gov.

And good luck to Nick, Rahul, Alice, and Vivek on behalf of all of us!

Yours,

Milan de Vries
Doctors for America

P.S. We'll be live twittering the forum too: <http://twitter.com/drsforamerica>

P.P.S. Don't forget, we've been invited onto a call with Senator Chris Dodd, Thursday, June 18 at 6pm EST. Click here to register for the call:

<http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=59731>

June 19, 2009

Dear (Doctors for America member),

Yesterday, we brought your voices to the White House – literally. The four of us sat at the table with 18 other leaders in medicine and 5 members of White House health reform leadership. But we didn't come to this intimate meeting alone. We arrived with hundreds and hundreds of pages containing every comment that you have ever shared with us about what you need in health reform. And during the 90 minute discussion, we shared what you've been telling us over this past year with the White House. **Yesterday, the White House heard what you have to say.**



Your seat at the table

The forum was focused on prevention and cost containment. **So we shared your ideas.** They were impressed to hear about the Payment Reform House Meetings you held across the country, and we told them about your concerns over the fragmentation of care and your desire to be reimbursed for quality over quantity. Dr. Zeke Emmanuel, from the White House health reform team, asked Alice to read some comments from our members. She read comments from Janet Shalwitz from Arizona and Richard Todd from New Mexico about the importance of primary care and prevention. And she closed with a quote from Raphael Pristoop from Brooklyn, NY: "Honestly the best prevention is giving people health insurance."

At the end of the meeting, we hand-delivered your comments in large, heavy binders directly to the leadership of the White House Office of Health Reform. We wanted them to see how many of you had spoken up to say we need health reform now. Your comments reminded everyone that we cannot afford to let another year pass without real reform. **Our key message to the White House leadership was that physicians on the front lines need to be part of the health reform process, and we are ready to help get reform passed this year.**



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Dr. Zeke Emmanuel carrying binders filled with your comments

When we began this movement one year ago, it was with the promise of bringing the voices of physicians to health reform. Yesterday, your dedication helped us accomplish that. **What you have done in the Doctors for America movement is something that hasn't happened before in the history of medicine.** It is a true grassroots effort that is carrying the hopes and ideas of physicians in all 50 states to the halls of Washington.

We must continue to work hard to make sure doctors are heard in the debate on health reform. Over the next two months, we expect an intense battle for health reform. As the debate intensifies and as the anti-reform attacks increase, we will need your support and your energy more than ever before.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment,

Vivek Murthy, MD MBA

Alice Chen, MD

Nikhil Wagle, MD

Rahul Rajkumar, MD JD

And the rest of the Doctors for America Team

P.S. Please invite your friends and colleagues to join this movement: www.drsmforamerica.org.