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## **Pioneer Institute Announces Winners of its Better Government Competition *Dr. Mark McClellan to Deliver Keynote at September 16<sup>th</sup> Event Recognizing Winners***

**BOSTON** – Pioneer Institute announced today that Senior Link™, an elderly care company administered by Caregiver Home of Massachusetts, is the winner of its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Better Government Competition (BGC).

With healthcare reform now at the top of President Obama's agenda, this year's competition focused exclusively on healthcare, soliciting ideas for local and state-based reform from around the country. In addition to the winner, ideas that will be recognized at the September 16th awards ceremony hail from Pennsylvania, Florida, Arizona, Washington, and again, Massachusetts.

The winners were selected by an independent panel of distinguished judges that consisted of:

- Mrs. Martha Bebinger, WBUR Radio
- Mr. Eric J. Beyer, President and CEO, Tufts Medical Center Physicians Organization
- Dr. Roberta Herman, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
- Mr. Charles C. Hewitt, III, Executive Vice President, Guy Carpenter and Company, LLC
- Dr. Nancy Kane, Harvard School of Public Health
- Mrs. Dolores Mitchell, Executive Director, Group Insurance Commission
- Ms. Delia Vetter, Director of Benefits, Employee Service Program, EMC Corporation

“The cost of high-quality care for our burgeoning elder population is one of the principal cost drivers in the state’s \$10 billion Medicaid budget,” notes Jim Stergios, Pioneer’s executive director. “We are pleased to award the winning prize to Senior Link™. We are also pleased to see the breadth of winning entries, covering practical ways to incentivize healthier living and better occupational health, reduce surgical complications, and contain the cost of and increase access to primary care.”

Healthcare spending currently accounts for nearly 15% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and it could potentially grow to over 30% in the next 25 years. Public sector programs account for a large portion of this, and Medicare is projected to grow from 4% to 9% of the nation’s GDP in the same time period. Even with many nationwide reforms underway, affordable, accessible healthcare is still an unfulfilled wish for many. The Annual BGC Awards Dinner will honor the best ideas that propose to remedy this situation.

**On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Pioneer Institute will be holding the its annual Competition Awards Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Boston, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.** In addition to the award winners, elected officials, policy leaders, and the business community, will be keynote speaker **Dr. Mark McClellan**, currently **Director of the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution.**

**Senior Link™ is the 2009 Better Government Competition Award Winner.** By using cost effective, community-based procedures to provide care to elders with disabilities, Senior Link™, a care company for elders administered by Caregiver Homes of Massachusetts, Inc. (CGH), addresses one of the key challenges the Commonwealth faces in healthcare. *(For more information on this year’s winner, runners-up, and special recognition recipients, please see the attached Fact Sheet.)*

Prior to joining the Brookings Institution, Dr. McClellan was the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and before that Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and senior policy director for healthcare and economic issues for the White House during the presidency of George W. Bush. He

was also an associate professor of economics and associate professor of medicine (with tenure) at Stanford University.

“Attendants of the Better Government Competition Awards Dinner in September will have the privilege of hearing from Dr. Mark McClellan, who has twice received the Arrow Award for Outstanding Research in Health Economics,” says Shawni Littlehale, director of the Better Government Competition. “His vast experience in researching and effectuating healthcare policy and his insights into the reformation of the U.S. healthcare system will be very enlightening.”



[Pioneer Institute](#) is an independent, non-partisan, privately funded research organization that seeks to change the intellectual climate in the Commonwealth by supporting scholarship that challenges the "conventional wisdom" on Massachusetts public policy issues.