

December 15, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Immediate Action to Address the Medicare Part B Therapy Caps

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Leader Schumer, and Leader Pelosi:

Representing the concerns of Medicare beneficiaries, health care professionals and providers, the undersigned organizations strongly urge the House and Senate to take action before the end of the year to permanently address the Medicare Part B therapy caps. Access to critical rehabilitation services for Medicare beneficiaries suffering from stroke and other health conditions is at stake if the House and Senate fail to act before the end of the year.

Bipartisan efforts in the House Ways and Means Committee, House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Senate Finance Committee have achieved a policy that would permanently end arbitrary limits on beneficiary access to necessary physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language pathology services; after 20 years, the therapy cap would no longer threaten beneficiary access to necessary therapy services. The Committees have worked in concert with beneficiaries, health professionals and providers to achieve this goal. It is a substantial achievement after years of toiling on this issue.

As leaders of the House and Senate we urge you to advance this legislation before the end of the calendar year. The therapy cap would limit treatment options for millions of Medicare beneficiaries when the cap is reinstated on January 1, 2018. At a minimum, we ask that the House and Senate include language in the upcoming Continuing Resolution to ensure a short-term gap of coverage does not occur until a permanent solution can be enacted. This would protect beneficiaries who might quickly exhaust their outpatient therapy benefit.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

ALS Association
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
AARP
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Amputee Coalition
Arthritis Foundation
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Falling Forward Foundation
Focus on Therapeutic Outcomes
Hydrocephalus Association
The Jewish Federations of North America
Leading Age
Medicare Rights Center
The Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care
National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies
National Disability Rights Network
National MS Society
National Stroke Association
Private Practice Section of APTA
United Spinal Association

cc:

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515