

February 2, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Re: Time Sensitive - Congressional Passage of Medicare Legislative Package

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

We write on behalf of some of the most vulnerable Medicare seniors, disabled and critically ill patients across America who are now facing serious health care consequences if Congress does not pass a Medicare legislative package soon. There is strong bipartisan support in both houses of Congress for a Medicare legislative package to retroactively address Medicare extenders, and refine other reimbursement and coverage issues directly related to the health and well-being of Medicare beneficiaries.

We, the undersigned organizations, have come together to request that you pass a Medicare legislative package as soon as possible, ideally in the upcoming February 8, 2018 funding bill. While we are all working toward specific policies that affect distinct Medicare beneficiary populations, we are united in the need for Congress to pass a bipartisan Medicare bill.

Both the House and the Senate, in a bipartisan way, advanced several bills/provisions through their committees of Medicare jurisdiction in 2017, as many of the impacted programs either expired or otherwise required Congressional action by the end of 2017. Now that we are well into 2018, Congress' inaction on these important Medicare policies could mean real harm to the vulnerable patients we serve.

It is only through action by Congressional leadership that these bipartisan, and often bicameral policies, can be finalized. Thank you for your prompt and bipartisan attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals
Alliance for Aging Research
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement
AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
American Academy of Home Care Medicine
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Ambulance Association
American Association on Health and Disability

American Occupational Therapy Association
Alzheimer's Foundation of America
American Foundation for the Blind
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Blue Shield of California
Brain Injury Association of America
Caregiver Action Network
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care
Connected Health Initiative
ElevatingHOME
Family Caregiver Alliance
Healthcare Leadership Council
Home Centered Care Institute
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Lakeshore Foundation
Landmark Health
LeadingAge
LeadingAge Ohio
Medicare Rights Center
MedStar Health
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care
National Association of ACOs
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Coalition on Health Care
National Home Infusion Association
National MLTSS Health Plan Association
National Partnership for Hospice Innovation
National Rural Health Association (NRHA)
SCAN Health Plan
Special Needs Plan Alliance
The Emergency Department Practice Management Association
The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
The Jewish Federations of North America
Visiting Nurse Association of Philadelphia

CC: Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orin Hatch
Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden
House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden
House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone
House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady
House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richard Neal