

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