

August 24, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of health systems, hospitals, and group purchasing organizations — collectively representing over 600 hospitals and over 5,000 sites of care across all 50 states — we are writing to express our concern about trends in Medicare beneficiary access to home infusion services and urge you to prioritize the *Preserving Patient Access to Home Infusion Act* ([S. 2652/H.R. 5067](#)). This vital legislation would ensure Medicare beneficiaries can avoid admission to long-term care settings and receive their life-sustaining infused medications at home, a preferred, more convenient, and less expensive care setting.

While commercial insurance plans provide comprehensive coverage for home infusion therapy (HIT) services, seniors who are covered under traditional Medicare often do not have the option to remain at home. In January, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [report](#) on Medicare's HIT benefit, which confirms our experience that utilization of the benefit has been "low." The report highlighted that just five suppliers are furnishing almost half of the total service visits, two of which recently announced they are closing approximately 60 locations in total across the country.

Unfortunately, the lack of participation in Medicare's home infusion benefit stems from the manner in which the benefit has been implemented coupled with lack of clarity in the underlying statute, including the definition of "infusion drug administration calendar day." Insufficient payment for HIT services has contributed to the lack of providers participating in the benefit, which in turn creates challenges in our ability to transition patients from inpatient care to the home setting. This is especially true for high acuity patients who rely on continuously infused medications, such as those who require inotropic therapies to manage severe heart failure. Patients who cannot access home infusion due to lack of availability are increasingly transitioning to long-term care facilities rather than being discharged to home, where they would prefer to receive their care.

The *Preserving Patient Access to Home Infusion Act* makes important technical corrections and clarification to the statute. These changes will help ensure home infusion remains a safe, effective, and *available* option for patients. We appreciate your attention to this issue and thank you in advance for working with your colleagues to move this much-needed legislation prior to the end of this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

Advocate Aurora Health
Ascension
Athol Hospital
Atrium Health
Avera Health System
Baptist Health South Florida
Capstone Health Alliance
Catholic Health, Buffalo NY
CHAMPS Group Purchasing
ChristianaCare
CommonSpirit Health at Home
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Froedtert Health
Health Center Partners of Southern California
Health Enterprises Cooperative
Health First
Henry Ford Health System
Heywood Hospital
Jefferson Health
Johns Hopkins Medicine
M Health Fairview
Mosaic Health System
Mountain Health Network
Newberry County Memorial Hospital
Northern Lights Health
OHSU Health Services
Pandion Optimization Alliance
Summa Health
Texas Health Resources
The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg & Calhoun Counties
UMass Memorial Medical Center
UnityPoint Health
University of Chicago Medicine
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
University of Rochester Medical Center
Upstate University Hospital
UVA Health
UW Health
Wentworth Douglass Hospital
Yale New Haven Health System

CC: Chairman Ron Wyden, Senate Finance Committee
Ranking Member Mike Crapo, Senate Finance Committee
Chairman Richard Neal, House Ways & Means Committee
Ranking Member Kevin Brady, House Ways & Means Committee
Chairman Frank Pallone, House Energy & Commerce Committee
Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House Energy & Commerce Committee