

## Private Practice Physical Therapists

*Small business professionals restoring function to America - one patient at a time.*

### REPEAL THE MEDICARE THERAPY CAP

#### RECOMMENDATION:

**PPS urges members of Congress to sponsor and pass H.R.807/S.253 to permanently repeal and replace the arbitrary annual per-beneficiary Medicare cap on therapy services.**

The bipartisan *Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act* (H.R.807/S.253) was reintroduced on February 1, 2017. The House bill is sponsored by Representatives Erik Paulsen (R-MN), Ron Kind (D-WI), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and Doris Matsui (D-CA). Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD), Susan Collins (R-ME), Bob Casey (D-PA), and Dean Heller (R-NV) are the original cosponsors of the Senate bill. H.R.807/S.253 would permanently repeal and replace the \$1,980/year arbitrary cap imposed on Medicare beneficiaries who receive physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services.

#### BACKGROUND:

In 1997, Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act that created an annual financial limit on physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services, for all outpatient settings. This action was not based on data, quality-of-care concerns, or clinical judgment—its sole purpose was to limit spending in order to balance the federal budget.

Since then, because this policy is not workable, Congress has regularly intervened to waive the caps and implement an exceptions process. This action has been taken to ensure that those beneficiaries who are most in need of therapy are still able to receive the necessary services. The broadly supported and perennial action is a Congressional acknowledgment that the therapy cap is an errant policy which, if not modified or repealed, will harm those beneficiaries most in need of therapy services in order to return to optimal function. Because the current exceptions mechanism expires on December 31, 2017, corrective legislation must be passed before the end of this year.

In both the 113<sup>th</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup> Congress over a majority of members of the House of Representatives and about one-third of Senators from both sides of the aisle were committed to correct this dysfunctional policy and cosponsored legislation to repeal to the therapy cap.

**PPS believes it is imperative to provide a long-term solution to the therapy cap and the H.R.807/S.253 would accomplish this overdue and much-needed policy change.**

To cosponsor S.253, please contact Lauren Jee in Senator Cardin's office at [Lauren\\_Jee@Cardin.senate.gov](mailto:Lauren_Jee@Cardin.senate.gov). Please contact Ryan Huff ([ryan.huff@mail.house.gov](mailto:ryan.huff@mail.house.gov)) in Representative Paulsen's office or Elizabeth Stower ([Elizabeth.stower@mail.house.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.stower@mail.house.gov)) in Representative Kind's office to cosponsor H.R.807.