

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