

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we again write to urge you to extend the Independence at Home (IAH) demonstration program and incorporate improvements to the program as part of any must-pass legislation, including the continuing resolution (CR) or next COVID-19 supplemental efforts. The IAH demonstration is scheduled to end on December 31, 2020 without Congressional action, which will imperil care for nearly 15,000 chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries. Additionally, lack of timely action to extend and expand the demonstration is creating uncertainty for the home-based primary care (HBPC) providers currently participating in the program, as well as those providers who are interested in entering the demonstration to provide patient care in the home.

We appreciate the tremendous ongoing work on Capitol Hill to address this pandemic. Our belief is that the care delivered in the home through IAH by home care medicine providers is even more vital today as we are faced with the continued responsibility to address COVID-19, especially for our most vulnerable populations. During these uncertain times for health, greater support for primary care in the home is critical so this population does not defer care.

Now in its seventh year, the IAH demonstration program serves nearly 15,000 medically complex, chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries who are home limited. This demonstration, established by Congress, has both saved between \$81 and \$100 million for the Medicare program and improved the quality of care for beneficiaries being served in the home setting.

In order to preserve this important program serving vulnerable seniors and to make critical improvements to its design based on six years of learnings from practices across the United States, we strongly urge you to support the inclusion of the *Independence at Home Demonstration Act of 2019* (HR 3644) in addition to the recommended demonstration improvements below in any must-pass health care package.

Specifically, we request that the IAH Demonstration extension include language to:

- 1) Authorize the Secretary to treat IAH as other shared savings programs to improve and expand the program to increase access to HBPC services for additional beneficiaries needing care in the home;
- 2) Increase the number of beneficiaries that may be enrolled by 5,000 each year savings are demonstrated in the previous year; and

- 3) Expand practice eligibility to allow current practice participants to expand to other sites in their practice, under a common Tax ID Number, and to new, highly-qualified practices.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and our organizations look forward to working with you to extend this critical program serving the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM)
American Academy of Home Care Medicine (AAHCM)
American Geriatrics Society
American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
American Psychological Association
Centene Corporation
Christiana Care Health Services
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC)
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Home Centered Care Institute (HCCI)
Housecall Providers, Inc. CareOregon
MedStar House Call Program
National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC)
National Council on Aging
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI)
Northwell Health House Calls
Schnabel In-Home Care Program, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System
Virginia Commonwealth University
Visiting Physicians Association
The Gerontological Society of America
U.S. Medical Management (USMM)
Village Medical at Home