



February 22, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner:

As a coalition of the nation's frontline caregivers who tend to the most vulnerable elderly in our nation's nursing homes, we write today to urge you to act immediately to extend the exceptions process for Medicare Part B outpatient therapy services. By acting, you will help assure that many of our patients receive the therapy services they require and help them to avoid the cap on services that went into effect January 1, 2010.

Members of the Coalition to Protect Senior Care (CPSC) provide around-the-clock care to elderly and disabled individuals requiring skilled nursing care, and we know all too well the critical role therapy services provide for high acuity patients such as those recovering from a stroke or hip replacement. We are already seeing the impact of the mandated cap on therapy services in our day-to-day care of the elderly. Thousands of Medicare beneficiaries have hit the cap since its implementation in January 2010, and many of them have severe rehabilitative needs.

The therapy cap is flawed policy that compromises our ability as caregivers to provide high quality care and jeopardizes the ability of our skilled nursing residents to access that care and reach their highest level of health and function. Failure to act to extend the Medicare exceptions process will put these beneficiaries who require rehabilitation at risk.

We respectfully ask that you protect the individuals with disabilities and senior citizens requiring these essential therapy services and enact legislation to reinstate the exceptions process for Medicare Part B outpatient therapy services retroactively to January 1, 2010, so access to quality care is unhindered.

Sincerely,

The Coalition to Protect Senior Care

American Association for Long Term Care Nursing (AALTCN)

American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators

American Association of Nurse Executives

American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA)

American Health Care Association (AHCA)

American Health Quality Association (AHQA)

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

Affiliated State Health Care Association Executives (ASHCAE) Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care

Coalition of Women in Long Term Care (COWL)

National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL)

National Association of Health Care Assistants (NAHCA)

National Rural Health Association (NRHA)

Senior Clinician Group



February 22, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader

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