February 2, 2018

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

The Honorable Paul Ryan Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Chuck Schumer Minority Leader U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: <u>Time Sensitive - Congressional Passage of Medicare Legislative Package</u>

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

We write on behalf of some of the most vulnerable Medicare seniors, disabled and critically ill patients across America who are now facing serious health care consequences if Congress does not pass a Medicare legislative package soon. There is strong bipartisan support in both houses of Congress for a Medicare legislative package to retroactively address Medicare extenders, and refine other reimbursement and coverage issues directly related to the health and well-being of Medicare beneficiaries.

We, the undersigned organizations, have come together to request that you pass a Medicare legislative package as soon as possible, ideally in the upcoming February 8, 2018 funding bill. While we are all working toward specific policies that affect distinct Medicare beneficiary populations, we are united in the need for Congress to pass a bipartisan Medicare bill.

Both the House and the Senate, in a bipartisan way, advanced several bills/provisions through their committees of Medicare jurisdiction in 2017, as many of the impacted programs either expired or otherwise required Congressional action by the end of 2017. Now that we are well into 2018, Congress' inaction on these important Medicare policies could mean real harm to the vulnerable patients we serve.

It is only through action by Congressional leadership that these bipartisan, and often bicameral policies, can be finalized. Thank you for your prompt and bipartisan attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals Alliance for Aging Research Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's Impact Movement AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology American Academy of Home Care Medicine American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation American Ambulance Association American Association on Health and Disability American Occupational Therapy Association

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

American Foundation for the Blind

American Geriatrics Society

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources

American Physical Therapy Association

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Blue Shield of California

Brain Injury Association of America

Caregiver Action Network

Coalition to Transform Advanced Care

Connected Health Initiative

ElevatingHOME

Family Caregiver Alliance

Healthcare Leadership Council

Home Centered Care Institute

Immune Deficiency Foundation

Lakeshore Foundation

Landmark Health

LeadingAge

LeadingAge Ohio

Medicare Rights Center

MedStar Health

National Association for the Support of Long Term Care

National Association of ACOs

National Association of Specialty Pharmacy

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

National Coalition on Health Care

National Home Infusion Association

National MLTSS Health Plan Association

National Partnership for Hospice Innovation

National Rural Health Association (NRHA)

SCAN Health Plan

Special Needs Plan Alliance

The Emergency Department Practice Management Association

The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice

The Jewish Federations of North America

Visiting Nurse Association of Philadelphia

CC: Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orin Hatch Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richard Neal