

October XX, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader Thune, Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and House Minority Leader Jeffries:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to take action to prevent CMS from finalizing the proposed 2026 Medicare home health payment cuts and address flaws in the payment system now.

Home health care is one of Medicare's most essential benefits. It allows older adults and people with disabilities to recover safely at home, helps hospitals discharge patients more efficiently, reduces costly readmissions, and saves taxpayers money. Patients value it, families depend on it, and our health care system cannot function effectively without it.

But this benefit is in crisis. Instead of strengthening home health, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has imposed cuts over the last three years that have destabilized the program and are dismantling access to care. Agencies are closing or shrinking their coverage area, hospitals are struggling to discharge patients, and families are left with fewer care options for their loved ones.

In 2018, Congress required that home health payment reform remain budget neutral while aligning payments more closely with patients' needs and conditions. Instead, the current payment system has strayed far from that mandate. CMS' actions continue to undermine access for millions of older adults and people with disabilities, forcing taxpayers to bear higher costs associated with increased hospitalizations and facility-based care, and putting the Medicare Trust Fund at risk.

The proposed payment reductions for home health pose a serious threat to the health and safety of Medicare beneficiaries and to the broader integrity of our healthcare system. With the 2026 payment rule under review and due by November 1, **we urge you to promptly intervene and press CMS to stop the cuts and realign payments.**

Home health care is too valuable to lose. Please act now to protect access to skilled home health services for millions of Americans and safeguard one of Medicare's most proven, cost-effective benefits.

Sincerely,