

October 23, 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,

Lead Signatories:

National Alliance for Care at Home
LeadingAge

Additional Signatories (listed alphabetically):

A Force for Good
Advocate Health Care
Alliance for the Advancement of End-of-Life Care
Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Arizona Association for Home Care
Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina
Association of Jewish Aging Services
Avera Health
Better Medicare Alliance
Bi-State Primary Care Association
Bristol Home Care and Hospice
Brookings Health System Home Health Agency
California Association of Health Facilities
California Hospice and Palliative Care Association (CHAPCA)
Care Providers of Minnesota
Caregiver Action Network
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)
Citizens Memorial Health Care
Community Resources for Independence, Inc.
Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home
Connecticut Nurses Association
Davis Phinney Foundation for Parkinson's
Day Kimball HomeCare
Delaware Association for Home & Community Care
Eastern Connecticut Health Network
Georgia Association for Home Health Agencies, Inc.

Good Samaritan
Granite State Home Care & Hospice Association
Hartford Healthcare
Hartford HealthCare at Home
Healthcare Association of Hawaii
Healthcare Leadership Council
Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine
Home Care & Hospice Association of NJ
Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts
Home Care and Hospice Association of Colorado
Home Care Association of Florida
Home Care Association of New York State (HCANYS)
Homecare and Hospice Association of Utah
HomeCare Association of Arkansas
Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts
Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Iowa
Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State
Idaho Health Care Association
Illinois HomeCare & Hospice Council
Indiana Association for Home and Hospice Care
Iowa Health Care Association
Kansas Home Care & Hospice Association
Kentucky Home Care Association
LeadingAge California
LeadingAge Colorado
LeadingAge Connecticut
LeadingAge Georgia
LeadingAge Illinois/Iowa
LeadingAge Kansas
LeadingAge Minnesota
LeadingAge Missouri
LeadingAge Nebraska
LeadingAge New York
LeadingAge NJ & DE
LeadingAge Ohio
LeadingAge PA
LeadingAge RI
LeadingAge South Carolina
LeadingAge Southeast
LeadingAge Tennessee
LeadingAge Virginia
LeadingAge Washington
Live Ins for the Elderly LLC
Louisiana Mississippi Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (LMHPCO)

Lutheran Services in America
Maine Medical Association
MaineHealth Home Health and Hospice
Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association
Masonicare
Mass General Brigham
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association
Meals on Wheels of Chester County
Meals on Wheels Pennsylvania Association
Medicare Rights Center
Michigan HomeCare and Hospice Association
Middlesex Health
Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Minnesota Association of County Health Plans
Minnesota Home Care Association
Mississippi Association for Home Care
Missouri Alliance for Care at Home
Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Missouri Hospital Association
Missouri Nurses Association
Montana Hospital Association
Monument Health Home Health and Hospice
Moving Health Home
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Rural Health Association
Nebraska Health Care Association
Nebraska Home Care Association
Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association
New Hampshire Health Care Association
New Hampshire Hospital Association
New Hampshire Nurses Association
New Mexico Association for Home & Hospice Care
New York State Association of Health Care Providers (HCP)
North Dakota Long Term Care Association
Nurses Mind Your Business
Nuvance Health
Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice
Ohio Health Care Association
Oklahoma Association for Home Care & Hospice
Oklahoma Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Oregon Association for Home Care
Oregon Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Oregon Office of Rural Health

PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A)
Patients Rising
Pennsylvania Association of HCBS Providers
Pennsylvania Homecare Association
Prairie Lakes Healthcare System - Home Health Agency
Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care
Rural Health Association of Utah
RVNAhealth
Sanford Health
South Carolina Home Care & Hospice Association
South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations
South Dakota Health Care Association
Stratford Visiting Nurse Association
Stratis Health
Tennessee Association for Home Care
Texas ~ New Mexico Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice
Texas Health Resources
Texas Hospital Association
Triage Cancer
UCP of Central PA
United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Georgia
University of Minnesota, School of Nursing
Vetter Senior Living
Virginia Association for Home Care and Hospice
Visiting Nurse Health System
Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley
VNAs of Vermont
Washington State Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
West Virginia Council for Home Care and Hospice
Westbrook Visiting Nurses and Public Health
Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care