

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Leader
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

We write to urge passage of the *Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act*, bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Carper and Scott and Representatives Blumenauer and Wenstrup, that would extend the current acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities for two years from the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). This legislation will maintain access to these services and provide necessary stability and predictability for patients, caregivers, and physicians.

Today, over 200 hospitals in 34 states are approved for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) waiver program. The program is a critically important tool that has allowed hospitals and health systems to provide safe, high quality care in the comfort of the patient's home. Acute hospital care at home waiver programs are providing high quality care to Medicare patients in their homes. Studies of hospital at home programs regularly show significant reductions in 30-day readmissions, post-discharge emergency department visits and skilled nursing facility utilization. Patients also gain more mobility and improved sleep, and patient satisfaction is also consistently higher for patients receiving acute care in their homes.

However, the CMS waiver flexibilities that enable this model of patient-centered care delivery are tied to the duration of the COVID-19 PHE. Therefore, to ensure continuity of care, patients and their health care providers need greater certainty and predictability for this important care delivery option. The Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act provides necessary stability by extending the existing waiver program for two years following the termination of the PHE. It will also require that CMS issue regulations establishing health and safety requirements for AHCAH Programs within a year of enactment.

We strongly support immediate passage of this bill that will both sustain the existing momentum and investment in the program, as well as allow for additional experience and data collection that can inform the potential of a more permanent program for these services in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Sincerely,

Acadian Ambulance Service Inc.
Advanced Care at Home Coalition
Adventist Health
Advocate Aurora Health
Alliance of Community Health Plans

Allina Health
America's Physician Groups
American Academy of Home Care Medicine
American Medical Association
Amwell
AMGA
Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
Ascension
Atrium Health
AU Medical Center
Avera McKennan Healthcare Center
Beacon Health System
Bellin Health
Biofourmis, Inc.
BrightStar Care
Carbon Health
Cardinal Health
Care New England/Kent Hospital
Castell and Intermountain Healthcare
CentraCare Health
ChristianaCare
CIC Health
CommonSpirit Health
Compassus
Contessa
Corstrata
Covenant Health
Current Health, A Best Buy Health Company
DispatchHealth
Duke Health
Elara Caring
Essentia Health
Florida Hospital Association
Geisinger Medical Center
Gundersen Health System
Hackensack Meridian Health
Healing Hands Healthcare, LLC
Health Care Transformation Task Force
Health First
HealthPartners
Health Recovery Solutions
Highmark Health
Holy Name
Houston Methodist
Indiana University Health
Inova
INTEGRIS Health
Johns Hopkins Health System

Kaiser Permanente
Little Black Bag House Calls
Marshfield Clinic Health System
Mass General Brigham
Mayo Clinic
Medical City Healthcare
Medical Group Management Association
Medical University of South Carolina
Medically Home
Medsign International Corp.
MemorialCare Health System
Michigan Medicine/University of Michigan
Minnesota Hospital Association
Mount Sinai Health System
Moving Health Home
MultiCare
Northwest Momentum Health Partners
Novant Health
NS2 Consulting Group, LLC
Ochsner Health
Omicell
Oregon Health & Science University
Origin Healthcare
OSF HealthCare
Parkland Health
Penn State Health
PharmAdva
Premier, Inc.
Prisma Health
ProMedica
Providence
PSW
Redeemer Health
Resilient Healthcare
Riverside Health System
Sentara Healthcare
Sharp HealthCare
Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group
South County Health
Saint Luke's Health System, Inc.
St. Bernards Healthcare
St. Elizabeth Healthcare
St. Peter's Health Partners
Summa Health
SUNY Upstate University Hospital
Sweetheart Healthcare, LLC
Tampa General Hospital
Texas Health Resources

The Guthrie Clinic
The MetroHealth System
Trinity Health
UAB Medicine
UCI Health
UMass Memorial Health
UNC Health & UNC School of Medicine
UnityPoint Health
University Hospitals
University of California San Francisco
University of Illinois at Chicago
UW Health
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
VCU Health
VeeOne Health
WakeMed
Wise Health System
XSOLIS
Yale New Haven Health