

March 10, 2017

The Honorable Ed Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Markey, Portman, Bennet, and Cornyn:

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for S. 464, the “Independence at Home Act of 2017” that you introduced on February 28, 2017. This bipartisan legislation expands the highly successful Independence at Home (IAH) demonstration project (1866E of the Medicare Act) that has been providing home-based primary medical care to over 10,000 frail elders with severe chronic illness and disability over the last five years.

The IAH model uses interdisciplinary teams to coordinate all medical and social services in eligible patients’ homes, providing high quality clinical care and excellent patient experience while reducing total Medicare costs. Several key components make it successful:

- IAH is designed to provide appropriate levels of care for a carefully targeted group of the most complex, high cost beneficiaries.
- IAH requires an interdisciplinary team to provide access to care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and to offer in-home visits within 48 hours of hospital or ER discharge, including medication reconciliation.
- IAH prevents unnecessary hospitalizations and misuse of medications, and discourages overuse of services with shared savings incentives.
- IAH participation is voluntary for elders and family members and other caregivers who play an important role in care for patients.
- IAH has rigorous quality standards that assure better patient and family experience and high quality of clinical outcomes.
- IAH is backed by a substantial body of evidence showing that Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC), as applied in the IAH demo, enhances quality of care & reduces cost for seriously ill elders.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) found that IAH practices saved over \$32 million during the first two performance years while delivering high quality patient care in the home.

Over the next two decades, the number of people aged 65 and older will nearly double to more than 72 million, or one in five Americans. Over two million seniors are living with disability and multiple chronic illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer’s disease. The “Independence at Home Act of 2017” expands a targeted, proven, bipartisan elder care model so that it can benefit more Medicare beneficiaries with severe chronic illness and disability through coordinated, home-based primary care. Most importantly, the Act would enhance the

dignity and independence of these seniors by allowing them to stay where they are most comfortable, at home.

We applaud you for championing this legislation and look forward to your continued collaboration to improve access to care for this high-needs population.

Sincerely,