

June 6, 2016

The Honorable Pat Tiberi, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means Health Subcommittee
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McDermott, Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means Health Subcommittee
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Tiberi and Ranking Member McDermott:

As the Subcommittee reviews legislation to improve and sustain the Medicare Program, the Coalition to Promote Independence in Medicare respectfully requests your consideration of the ***Community Based Independence for Seniors Act (H.R. 4212)***.

The Coalition to Promote Independence in Medicare is comprised of providers, health plans, and other national health industry leaders with vast experience in serving low-income, chronically-ill patients. We heartily endorse H.R. 4212 as a means by which frail Medicare beneficiaries can receive care at home and avoid institutionalization and “spend-down,” thereby saving Medicare and Medicaid millions of dollars.

H.R. 4212 would create a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan (CBI-SNP) demonstration program to provide medically-complex Medicare beneficiaries with incomes at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level with access to a limited set of home and community based services (HCBS) tailored to individual needs.

This will allow eligible beneficiaries to remain in their homes, where studies show they want to remain. It would postpone or eliminate their need to enter an institution, spend down their dwindling assets, and then become eligible for Medicaid.

In so doing, the CBI-SNP demonstration would:

- Reduce Medicaid long-term care costs;
- Reduce Medicare acute care costs; and
- Reduce personal long-term care costs for eligible beneficiaries

Budget modeling by Avalere Health suggests that this demonstration could generate approximately \$60 million in state and federal savings during the demonstration.

H.R. 4212 is a tremendous opportunity to deliver critical services that improve the lives of frail seniors while providing policymakers with data to support an alternative payment methodology that could re-shape the financing of long term care.

The Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved similar legislation last summer. We urge you to include the CBI-SNP demonstration provision in any future Medicare reform legislation considered by the Committee.

Sincerely,

The Coalition to Promote Independence in Medicare

SCAN Health Plan
ArchCare
Care Wisconsin
Commonwealth Care Alliance
HealthPartners
UPMC Health Plan
Healthcare Leadership Council
CAPG
National Coalition on Health Care
The SNP Alliance
Visiting Nurses Association of America
Population Health Alliance
Express Scripts
Maxim Healthcare Services
LeadingAge