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**NHIA Applauds House of Representatives' Passage of Medicare Part B Home
Infusion Legislation (H.R. 3178)**

Alexandria, VA, July 25, 2017 — The National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) applauds the House of Representatives for passing the *Medicare Part B Improvement Act of 2017* (H.R. 3178), legislation that would allow vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries to continue to access life-saving therapy in the home. H.R. 3178 would create a temporary transitional payment, beginning January 1, 2019, for services related to Medicare Part B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) infusion drugs before a permanent payment structure, that was part of the *21st Century Cures Act*, is finalized in 2021.

HR 3178 was introduced July 11, by the Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) and was cosponsored by Ranking Member Richard Neal (D-MA), Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Ways and Means Health Care Subcommittee Chairman Pat Tiberi, Ways and Means Health Care Subcommittee Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-MI), Energy and Commerce

Committee Health Care Subcommittee Chairman Michael C. Burgess, (R-TX), and Energy and Commerce Committee Health Care Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX).

The bill will now be sent to the U.S. Senate where it will be referred to the Senate Finance Committee. "The House passage of this bill is an important step towards ensuring Medicare Part B beneficiaries have access to vital therapies in the comfort of their home," said NHIA President and CEO Tyler Wilson. "NHIA urges the Senate to follow the House in passing the legislation."

Provisions for a Medicare Part B services payment included as part of H.R. 3178, were initially introduced as H.R. 3163, the *Medicare Part B Home Infusion Therapy Services Temporary Transitional Payment Act*, on July 6 by Congressmen Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ).

H.R. 3178 also includes provisions from another NHIA-supported bill, H.R. 3172, that would amend the *Medicare IVIG Access and Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers Act of 2012* to extend the Medicare Patient IVIG Access Demonstration Project.

The *21st Century Cures Act* enacted last year contained two provisions that significantly affect the home infusion community. First, a provision contained in Section 5012 and scheduled to take effect in 2021, established a reimbursement structure based largely on provisions contained in the *Medicare Home Infusion Site of Care Act of 2015* for the professional services associated with Part B DME infusion drugs. NHIA supported Section 5012 of the legislation and is thankful for congressional action on this vital reimbursement issue. A second provision contained in Section 5004(a) changed the payment structure for infusion drugs under the Medicare Part B DME benefit from an Average Wholesale Price (AWP) metric to an Average Sales Price (ASP) payment methodology. H.R. 3178 addresses the gap between the two implementation dates.

The National Home Infusion Association, based in Alexandria, Virginia, represents organizations that provide infusion and specialized pharmacy products as well as the interests of Medicare patients unable to get home infusion therapy. For more information, visit the Association at www.nhia.org.