

**HELP SENIORS RECEIVE INFUSION CARE AT HOME
COSPONSOR THE MEDICARE HOME INFUSION THERAPY ACCESS ACT OF 2017
S. 1738**

September 14, 2017

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in supporting legislation to provide a bipartisan correction to the *21st Century Cures Act* that would preserve Medicare beneficiaries' ability to obtain critical infusion therapies at home.

The *21st Century Cures Act* included two provisions that significantly affect home infusion beneficiaries. First, a provision contained in Section 5012 and scheduled to take effect in 2021, established a reimbursement for the professional services associated with Part B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) infusion drugs. A second provision contained in Section 5004(a) changed the payment structure for infusion drugs under the Medicare Part B DME benefit from the Average Wholesale Price (AWP) metric to an Average Sales Price (ASP) payment methodology. This change better aligns home infusion drug payment with the way physician offices are currently reimbursed. This provision, which lowered payments, took effect at the beginning of 2017.

The gap included in the *21st Century Cures Act* between the implementation date for establishment of ASP reimbursement (2017) and the date established for a home infusion services payment (2021) needs to be addressed to ensure Medicare beneficiaries do not lose access to these vital therapies.

On August 3rd we introduced the *Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Access Act of 2017* with 16 other senators as original cosponsors to create a temporary transitional clinical home infusion services reimbursement. The transitional clinical services reimbursement, starting in 2019, would bridge the gap left by the *21st Century Cures Act* until the final services payment that was contained in Section 5012 of the *21st Century Cures Act* is finalized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

We hope you will consider cosponsoring *the Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Access Act of 2017*. To cosponsor or ask any questions, please contact Marvin Figueroa with Senator Mark Warner at Marvin_Figueroa@Warner.Senate.gov or William Dent with Senator Johnny Isakson at William_Dent@Isakson.Senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Johnny Isakson
United States Senate