



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Marilyn Tretler
National Home Infusion Association
703-838-2658
marilyn.tretler@nhia.org

**NHIA Applauds Senate Introduction of Medicare Home Infusion
Therapy Access Act of 2017**

Alexandria, VA, August 3, 2017 — The National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) applauds Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) for introducing the *Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Access Act of 2017*, legislation that would allow Medicare's most vulnerable beneficiaries to access life-saving therapy in the home.

The legislation includes provisions to create a temporary transitional payment, beginning January 1, 2019, for services related to Medicare Part B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) infusion drugs. The temporary payment will be in effect for the two years prior to the implementation in 2021 of the permanent payment structure that was part of the *21st Century Cures Act*. The Senate bill mirrors provisions contained in the *Medicare Part B Improvement Act of 2017* (H.R. 3178) passed by the House of Representatives July 25, 2017.

In addition to Senators Warner and Isakson, the *Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Access Act of 2017* is co-sponsored by Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Michael Bennet (D-CO),

Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Angus King (I-ME), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), David Perdue (R-GA), Rob Portman (R-OH), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Roger Wicker (R-MS).

“NHIA is encouraged by the progress and the bipartisan group of Senators sponsoring this bill,” said NHIA President and CEO Tyler Wilson. “The Association will continue to work with the Senate to move the bill quickly through the legislative process so that Medicare Part B beneficiaries will finally have access to vital therapies in the comfort of their home.”

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. *The Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Access Act of 2017* 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 and services as well as the interests of Medicare patients unable to get home infusion therapy. For more information, visit the Association at www.nhia.org.

