

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Terri Sewell
United States House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith
United States House of Representatives
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Sewell and Smith:

We, the undersigned 149 groups, write to express our strong support for **H.R. 5741, the “Strengthening Innovation in Medicare and Medicaid Act.”** This bipartisan legislation will make significant strides in addressing patient and provider concerns about the impact of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) demonstrations on access to care and the quality of care. We urge Congress to ensure the needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries – a significant proportion of whom have serious or life-threatening health conditions or disabilities – are safeguarded. We are concerned that too many CMMI models endanger patient access to healthcare providers and medically necessary treatments and create unnecessary obstacles for vulnerable patients.

H.R. 5741 provides safeguards for CMMI to ensure CMMI demonstrations are patient-focused and benefit beneficiaries. In the long run, improving healthcare delivery and quality is the best way to achieve sustainable cost savings. The legislation would:

- **Incorporate feedback from beneficiaries and other stakeholders in developing CMMI models** by formalizing the process with advance public notice and an opportunity for input. It is essential to ensure transparency and greater accountability before selecting, designing, testing, evaluating, or expanding a demonstration. Patients need greater transparency to better understand how CMMI models being tested will affect their care and treatment options.
- **Limit testing of new delivery and payment models** to no more than five years, ensuring beneficiaries will no longer be subjected to potentially harmful models for sustained periods of time.
- **Limit the scope of models** to only the number of participants necessary to achieve a statistically valid sample. Several on-going or proposed CMMI Phase I models are national in scope, affecting a large number of beneficiaries and providers before the demonstration’s consequences have been fully evaluated.
- **Address potential adverse impacts on patients** by requiring continuous real-time monitoring of the effects of a model on beneficiaries, especially as it relates to health disparities. This will help mitigate any adverse impact on Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries who are some of the nation’s sickest patients.
- **Reaffirm the role of Congress in the expansion of CMMI models** by establishing an expedited process for Congress to disapprove of the proposed expansion of a CMMI demonstration. This process adds an important layer of oversight to CMMI demonstrations to improve transparency and help maintain patient safety and access.
- **Establish the opportunity for judicial review at key CMMI decision points.** Current law does not provide for an independent judicial process to evaluate the effect of CMMI decisions on patients and providers.

We urge Congress to take action on H.R. 5741 expeditiously to ensure CMMI operates as intended and develops value-based projects that protect patients and ensure access to efficient, high quality care.

Sincerely,

1in9, Long Island Breast Cancer Coalition/Hewlett House
ADAP Advocacy Association
Advocates for Responsible Care
Aging Life Care Association®
Aimed Alliance
Alliance for Patient Access
ALS Advocate, The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA)
American College of Rheumatology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Kidney Fund
American Podiatric Medical Association
America's Blood Centers
APS Foundation of America, Inc
Arizona Bioindustry Association, Inc. (AZBio)
Arizona United Rheumatology Alliance
Arthritis Center of Nebraska
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of Women in Rheumatology
Biocom
BioForward Wisconsin
BioNJ
BioUtah
Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona
Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska
Bramlett Medical
Buechler Insurance Services
California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Health Collaborative
California Hepatitis C Task Force
California Life Sciences Association
CancerCare
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Centro de Mi Salud, LLC
Chronic Disease Coalition
Coalition of Hematology Oncology Practices
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Colorado Rheumatology Association

Community Access National Network (CANN)
Community Oncology Alliance
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation
Delaware Ecumenical Council
Digestive Health Physicians Association: DHPA
Economic Development Partnership of Alabama
Familia Unida Living with MS "Familia Unida"
First Step Staffing, Inc.
Florida Society of Rheumatology
Gastroparesis Support Services Inc.
Georgia Bio
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)
Healthcare Leadership Council
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
Indiana Health Industry Forum
International Association of Hepatitis Task Forces
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation
ION Solutions
IVX Health
Kentucky Rare Disease Advisory Council
Large Urology Group Practice Association (LUGPA)
Let's Talk About Change, LLC
Licensed Professional Counselors Association
Life Sciences Pennsylvania
Living Hope for Mental Health, Inc.
LUNgevity Foundation
Lupus Alliance of Upstate New York
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tri-State Chapter
Lupus Foundation of Arkansas, Inc.
MassBio
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California, Inc.
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)
MidWest Rheumatology Association
Milwaukee Rheumatology Center
Mississippi Arthritis and Rheumatism Society
Mississippi Oncology Society
Mississippi Psychiatric Association
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
NAMI Barrow
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Certification Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Infusion Center Association
National Medical Association
National Oncology State Network

National Organization of Rheumatology Managers
Nebraska Rheumatology Society
Nebraska State Grange
Nebraska State Medical Association
Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies
New Jersey Rheumatology Association
NewYorkBIO
North Carolina Biosciences Organization
North Carolina Rheumatology Association
Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice
Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
Oncology Center of Iowa
Oncology Managers of Florida
Oregon Bioscience Association
Oregon Podiatric Medical Association
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
Partnership to Improve Patient Care
Personalized Medicine Coalition
Physician Advocacy Institute
Piedmont Arthritis Clinic
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District
Prism Health North Texas
Regarding Cancer
Retiresafe
Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana
Rheumatology Association of Nevada
Rheumatology Nurses Society
Ruby A. Neeson Diabetes Awareness Foundation
Rush To Live Org
See
Seven Peaks Counseling
Silverstone International
South Carolina Rheumatism Society
South Dakota Biotech
Survivors Cancer Action Network
Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice
Texas Business Group on Health
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute
Texas Oncology - Central Austin
Texas Renal Coalition
Texas State Association of Occupational Health Nurses
The Lighthouse School
The Mended Hearts
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
The US Oncology Network
TRIO Seattle
United Ostomy Associations of America
Utah State Orthopedic Society
Virginia Society of Rheumatologists
Washington State Prostate Cancer Coalition

Washington State Urology Society
Wyoming Epilepsy Association