



October 13, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Brady and Walden and Ranking Members Neal and Pallone:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I am writing to urge your Committees to consider H.R. 4006, the “Community-Based Independence for Seniors Act.”

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation’s healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century healthcare system that makes affordable, high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, pharmacies, post-acute care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

The Medicare Special Needs Plans (SNPs) give beneficiaries access to care plans and provider networks that are designed to fit their needs. By coordinating care and providing access to supplemental benefits, these plans improve the health of Medicare beneficiaries and reduce costs for taxpayers.

The Community-Based Independence for Seniors Act, which was introduced by Representatives Linda Sanchez (D-CA), Pat Meehan (R-PA), Leonard Lance (R-NJ), and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) would create a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan (CBI-SNP) demonstration program. This program would provide home and

community-based care to low-income Medicare beneficiaries who are unable to perform two or more activities of daily living such as bathing, feeding, or dressing themselves. The services provided to these beneficiaries would enable them to remain in their homes if they choose to do so. By avoiding institutionalization, they would also reduce the risk of having to spend down their assets in order to become eligible for Medicaid. The CBI-SNP demonstration would therefore reduce Medicaid long-term care costs, Medicare acute care costs, and the beneficiaries' personal long-term care costs. HLC strongly supports the creation of this program, and urges the Committees to pass the Community-Based Independence for Seniors Act.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. HLC looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure high-quality care for Medicare beneficiaries. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Withey at (202) 449-3435.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Greal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary R. Greal  
President