

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to extend the Independence at Home (IAH) demonstration program and incorporate improvements to the program as part any must-pass health care legislation, including the next COVID-19 supplemental efforts. We appreciate the tremendous work to date on Capitol Hill to address this pandemic. Our belief is that the care delivered in the home through IAH by home care medicine providers is even more vital today as we are faced with the responsibility to address COVID-19, especially for our most vulnerable populations. During these uncertain times for health, greater investment supporting infrastructure for primary care in the home is critical so this population does not defer care. Please see [this article](#) speaking directly to the point based on Italy's experience.

Now in its seventh year, the IAH demonstration program serves nearly 15,000 medically complex, chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries who are home limited. This demonstration, established by Congress, has both saved money (over \$100 million) to the Medicare program and improved the quality of care for beneficiaries being served in the home setting.

Despite these positive results, the IAH demonstration is currently set to expire on December 31, 2020. In order to preserve this important program serving vulnerable seniors and to make critical improvements to its design based on six years of learnings from practices across the United States, we strongly urge you to support the inclusion of the *Independence at Home Demonstration Act of 2019* (HR 3644) in addition to the recommended demonstration improvements below in any must-pass health care package.

Specifically, we request that the IAH Demonstration extension include language to:

- 1) Authorize the Secretary to improve and expand the program to increase access to home-based primary care (HBPC) services for additional beneficiaries needing care in the home;
- 2) Provide appropriate reimbursement to support HBPC practices and their ability to provide high-touch care, which enables the greatest level of participation and does not jeopardize beneficiary access to care; and
- 3) Treat IAH the same as other shared savings programs to further advance value-based models of care.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and our organizations look forward to working with you to extend this critical program serving the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM)  
American Academy of Home Care Medicine (AAHCM)  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Osteopathic Association (AOA)  
American Psychological Association  
Centene Corporation  
Christiana Care Health Services  
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC)  
Comprehensive Geriatric Medicine P.C.  
Doctors Making Housecalls, LLC  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Home Centered Care Institute (HCCI)  
Housecall Providers, Inc. CareOregon  
Medical House Calls Program at MedStar Washington Hospital Center  
National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC)  
National Council on Aging  
National House Call Practitioners Group  
National Partnership for Hospice Innovation (NPHI)  
North Shore Long Island Jewish Health Care Inc.: Physician House Calls Program  
Schnabel In-Home Care Program, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Visiting Physicians Association  
The Gerontological Society of America  
U.S. Medical Management (USMM)  
Village Medical at Home