



# Federal Bills Impacting PHA Members

Please note: All of these bills can be viewed and downloaded on the PHA website

The following is a list of the federal bills that PHA has taken a position on and is currently monitoring. Please contact Lauren Mishoe at [lmishoe@pahomecare.org](mailto:lmishoe@pahomecare.org) to get involved in our federal advocacy!

Bill	Description	Position	Status/Advocacy
H.R. 30 and S. 30	<p>The <u>Save American Workers Act of 2015</u> would change the definition of "full-time employee" for purposes of the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate from an employee who is employed on average at least 30 hours of service a week to an employee who is employed on average at least 40 hours of service a week. (Co-sponsored by 10 PA Congressmen, 156 total)</p> <p>The Senate's <u>Forty Hours Is Full Time Act of 2015</u> is largely identical to H.R. 30. (Co-sponsored by Senator Toomey, 41 total)</p>	Support	<p>H.R. 30 – Passed the U.S. House of Representatives 252-172 on January 8, 2015; now awaits further consideration by the Senate Committee on Finance</p> <p>S. 30 – Awaits consideration by the Senate Committee on Finance</p> <p><i>PHA is reaching out to Senators urging them to pass the House Bill and alleviate the burden of the ACA's mandate on small providers.</i></p>
H.R. 1342 and S. 578	<p>The <u>Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2015</u> would allow nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants to order home health services under Medicare. (Co-sponsored by 14 PA Congressmen, 168 total)</p> <p>(Co-sponsored by Senator Casey, 42 total)</p>	Support	<p>H.R. 1342 – House Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Energy and Commerce</p> <p>S. 578 – Senate Committee on Finance</p>

			PHA continues individual outreach to our Congressmen and Senators who have not yet signed on.
H.R. 1458	The <u>Bundling and Coordinating Post-Acute Care Act (BACPAC) of 2015</u> would require a single bundled payment for post-acute care services under Medicare parts A (Hospital Insurance) and B (Supplementary Medical Insurance). (No PA Congressmen as co-sponsors, 3 total)	Monitor	House Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Energy and Commerce  PHA is monitoring this bill which has not progressed out of committee since its introduction in March 2015 and has only a handful of cosponsors.
H.R. 2208	The <u>Hospice Commitment to Accurate and Relevant Encounters (Hospice CARE) Act</u> would allow clinical nurse specialists, physician assistants or other health professionals as determined by the HHS Secretary (in addition to physicians and nurse practitioners as under current law) to perform the hospice face-to-face (F2F) encounter before the first 60-day (currently 180-day) recertification period and each subsequent recertification. In addition, the bill allows hospices additional time (up to seven days from the beginning of the benefit period) to complete the F2F encounter when exceptional circumstances exist. (No PA Congressmen as co-sponsors, 2 total)	Support	House Committee on Ways and Means  PHA continues outreach to House members asking them to sponsor this bill.
H.R. 3099 and S.1719	The Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engaged Family Caregivers Act of 2015 or RAISE Family Caregivers Act directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop, maintain, and periodically update a National Family Caregiving Strategy. HHS will convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council to advise it on recognizing and supporting family caregivers. (Co-sponsored by 7 PA Congressmen, 123 total) (Co-sponsored by Sen. Toomey, 11 total)	Support	H.R. 3099 – House Committee on Education and Workforce  PHA has met with Congressional staff to discuss this issue and encourage sponsorship.

			S.1719 – Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
H.R. 2446	Amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to require states to have in place a system for the electronic verification of visits conducted as part of personal care services or else have their federal medical assistance percentage reduced by specified amounts. (No PA Congressmen as co-sponsors, 3 total)	Support with amendments	House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health  PHA has met with Congressional staff to discuss this bill and encourage co-sponsorship. PHA is also involved with the Partnership for Medicaid Home-Based Care which supports this bill.
H.R. 4212	The Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan demonstration amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to establish a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan demonstration program through which up to five eligible Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations shall provide home and community-based care to eligible Medicare beneficiaries. For purposes of the demonstration program, an eligible Medicare beneficiary is ineligible for Medicaid and unable to perform two or more activities of daily living. (Co-sponsored by 2 PA Congressmen, 28 total)	Support	House Committee on Ways and Means and House Energy and Commerce
H.R. 3298	The Value-Based Purchasing of Post-Acute Care Services amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to: (1) modify market basket percentages for post-acute care (PAC) providers, and (2) establish a PAC value-based purchasing program under which PAC providers receive value-based incentive payments. PAC providers are skilled nursing facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, home health agencies, and long-term care hospitals. (No PA Congressmen as co-sponsored, 2 total)	Opposed	H.R. 3298 House Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce
H.R. 3119 and	The Palliative Care & Hospice Education and Training Act amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Dept. of Health and	Support	H.R.3119

S. 2748	Human Services to award grants or contracts for Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers. These Centers must improve the training of health professionals in palliative care and establish traineeships for individuals preparing for advanced education nursing degrees, social work degrees, or advanced degrees in physician assistant studies in palliative care. (Co-sponsored by 13 PA Congressmen, 203 total) (No PA Senators as co-sponsors, 10 total)		House Committee on Ways and Means  S.2748 Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
H.R. 6226	The Pre-Claim Undermines Seniors' Health (PUSH) Act of 2016 delays the Medicare demonstration for pre-claim review of home health services for one year to allow Congress, CMS and home health stakeholders to work together to strengthen the program and improve education and training to ensure patient care is not delayed or that individual beneficiaries are not unjustly denied coverage. (No PA Congressmen as co-sponsors, 4 total)	Support	House Committee on Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce  PHA has sent letters of support to the PA delegation urging them to co-sponsor this legislation.