



# 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   |
|------------------|---|----------|---|
| S. 445/H.R. 1825 | <p>The <u>Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017</u> would allow nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants to order home health services under Medicare.</p> <p>(Currently no PA Senators as co-sponsor, 38 total)<br/>(Currently 13 PA Representatives as co-sponsors, 129 total)</p>   | Support  | <p>Senate Committee on Finance and House Ways and Means Committee</p> <p>PHA has done individual outreach to both PA Senators urging them to cosponsor. PHA continues to do outreach to those members who have not signed on yet.</p> |
| H.R. 2663        | <p>The <u>Home Health Documentation and Program Improvement Act of 2017</u> eases the physician documentation requirement by merely requiring demonstration that a timely encounter occurred and narrow the circumstances where a face-to-face encounter is required by excluding patients transferred from a hospital or SNF. The bill also addresses CMS's past claim denials by requiring CMS to either reach a settlement with affected home health agencies or reopen and pay those claims denied related to the physician narrative.</p> <p>(Currently 4 PA Representatives as co-sponsors, 28 total)</p> | Support  | <p>House Ways and Means Committee</p> <p>PHA continues to do individual outreach to the delegation encouraging support.</p>   |
| S. 353           | <p>The <u>Preserve Access to Medicare Rural Home Health Services Act</u> provides an add-on for time and travel that is currently not part of payment.</p> <p>(Currently no PA co-sponsors, 1 total)</p>  | Support  | Senate Finance  |

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| S. 1151/H.R. 2505 | <p><u>Credit for Caring Act of 2017</u> allows an eligible caregiver a new tax credit for 30% of the costs of long-term care expenses that exceed \$2,000, up to \$3,000 in a taxable year.</p> <p>(Currently no PA Senators as co-sponsors, 8 total)<br/>(Currently 1 PA Representative as co-sponsor, 23 total)</p>   | Support | House Ways and Means Committee<br>Senate Finance   |
| S. 1028           | <p>The <u>Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engaged (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017</u> 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.</p> <p>(Passed the Senate unanimously; awaiting House consideration)</p>                | Support | Passed the Senate on September 27, 2017; referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce          |
| H.R. 1828/S.980   | <p>The <u>Rural Access to Hospice Act</u> expands the exemption to rural health clinics and FQHC services for Medicare payment limitations.</p> <p>(Currently 1 PA Representative as co-sponsor, 22 total)<br/>(Currently no PA Senators as co-sponsor, 9 total)</p>  | Support | House Ways and Means Committee<br>Senate Finance   |
| S. 693/H.R. 1676  | <p>The <u>Palliative Care and Hospice Education Training Act (PCHETA)</u> amends the Public Health Service Act to require HHS to provide support for Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers.</p> <p>(Currently no PA Senators as co-sponsor, 23 total)<br/>(Currently 10 PA co-sponsors, 218 total)</p>  | Support | Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions<br>House Energy and Commerce                                    |
| S. 309/H.R. 4006  | <p>The <u>Community-Based Independence for Seniors Act</u> 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</p> | Support | Senate Committee on Finance<br>PHA has done individual outreach to the delegation urging them to co-sponsor. |

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|           | <p>for Medicaid and unable to perform two or more activities of daily living.</p> <p>(Currently no PA Senators as co-sponsor, 1 total)<br/>(Rep. Meehan is a prime sponsor, no other PA sponsors, 3 total)</p>   |         |  |
| S. 870    | <p>The <u>Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017</u> expands and extends the Independence at Home demonstration project to provide home-based primary care, improves value-based purchasing options for serving chronically ill Medicare Advantage beneficiaries, increases flexibility for accountable care organizations (ACOs) serving chronically ill patients and increases access to telehealth for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries as well as stroke and dialysis patients. This bill implements many of the recommendations of the Senate Chronic Care Working Group, which made its report in 2016.</p> <p>(Passed the Senate, Sen. Casey was a cosponsor; awaiting House consideration)</p> | Support | <p>Passed the Senate on September 27, 2017; referred to House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce committees</p> <p>PHA commented on the report of the Senate Chronic Care Working Group in 2016 to support the policies contained in this legislation.</p> |
| H.R. 3820 | <p>The <u>Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act of 2017</u> would permit occupational therapists to perform the initial assessment and comprehensive assessments for home health patients for whom no skilled nursing services are ordered, but occupational therapy and either physical or speech therapy are ordered.</p> <p>(PA Representatives Meehan and Costello are prime sponsors; 6 sponsors total)</p>  | Support | <p>House Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce</p> <p>PHA reached out to the remainder of the PA House delegation to join as cosponsors.</p>   |