



# Federal Bills Impacting PHA Members

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Bill	Description	Position	Status/Advocacy
<b>HOME HEALTH</b>			
<a href="#">S. 445/H.R. 1825</a>	<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>(Sen. Casey is a co-sponsor, 44 total)            (Currently <a href="#">17 PA Representatives</a> as co-sponsors, 177 total)</p>	Support	<p>Senate Finance and House Ways and Means &amp; Energy and Commerce Committees</p> <p>PHA continues outreach to Rep. Doyle, the only PA Congressman that has not signed on to the House bill.</p>
<a href="#">H.R. 2663</a>	<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 <a href="#">5 PA Representatives</a> as co-sponsors, 31 total)</p>	Support	<p>House Ways and Means Committee</p> <p>PHA continues individual outreach to the delegation encouraging support.</p>

<a href="#">S. 870</a>	<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 26, 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>
<a href="#">H.R. 3820</a>	<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>(<a href="#">PA Representatives Meehan and Costello</a> are prime sponsors; 8 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>
<b>HOSPICE</b>			
<a href="#">H.R. 1828/S.980</a>	<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 <a href="#">1 PA Representative</a> as co-sponsor, 41 total) (Currently no PA Senators as co-sponsor, 20 total)</p>	Support	<p>House Ways and Means Committee Senate Finance</p>

<a href="#">S. 693/H.R. 1676</a>	<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, 29 total)  (Currently <a href="#">13 PA Representatives</a> as co-sponsor, 281 total)</p>	Support	Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  Passed the House on July 23, 2018
<a href="#">H.R. 5041</a>	<p><u>Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act</u> would amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize the employees of a hospice program to handle controlled substances in the residence of a deceased hospice patient to assist in disposal.</p> <p>(No PA representatives were co-sponsors)</p>	Support	Passed by the full House and sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 13, 2018
<b>HEMOCARE &amp; FAMILY CAREGIVERS</b>			
<a href="#">S. 1151/H.R. 2505</a>	<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, 9 total)  (Currently <a href="#">1 PA Representative</a> as co-sponsor, 26 total)</p>	Support	House Ways and Means Committee Senate Finance
<a href="#">S. 1028</a>	<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 26, 2017; referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce

<a href="#">H.R. 6042</a>	<p>Would amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the reduction in Federal matching funds for Medicaid personal care services and home health services furnished without an electronic visit verification (EVV) system. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act currently requires EVV for personal care services by January 2019 and for home health by January 2023.</p> <p>(No PA Representatives were cosponsors; passed by voice vote)</p>	Monitoring	Passed the House on June 20, 2018; awaiting consideration by the Senate
<b>WORKFORCE</b>			
<a href="#">H.R. 959 /S. 1109</a>	<p>Extends funding and support for nursing workforce programs and grants. To be eligible for these grants, clinical nurse specialist programs must provide registered nurses with full-time clinical nurse specialist education that qualifies the nurses to provide a full range of care. Also funds programs for loan repayment and scholarships for nurses, loans for nursing faculty, and geriatric care education through FY2022.</p> <p>(<a href="#">6 PA Representatives</a> were cosponsors; passed by voice vote) (Sen. Casey is a cosponsor; 14 Senators total)</p>	Support	<p>H.R. 959 Passed the House on July 26, 2018 and was sent to the Senate</p> <p>S. 1109 is in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions</p>