

Dear current and former Physical Therapy patients:

As physical therapists who treat many Medicare patients, we are writing to ask for your support in contacting our representatives in Washington, DC. Currently, there is a bill before both houses to repeal the Medicare therapy cap. This therapy cap impacts Medicare beneficiaries who need rehabilitation services the most, for example patients who suffer from a stroke, had joint replacements, have Parkinson disease, arthritis, spinal cord injuries, or bone disorders.

Before 1997, there was no financial cap so patients and their providers could determine appropriate treatment. However, in 1997, Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act, which created an annual financial limit on physical therapy services. This action was **not based on data, quality of care concerns or clinical judgment**—its sole purpose was to save resources needed to balance the federal budget.

The Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act (H.R. 807/S. 253), was introduced in February 2017 by several Representatives and Senators including Maryland's own Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) to end this pattern of yearly extensions and to repeal the cap after 18 years.

Repeal of the therapy cap continues to receive strong bipartisan support. In 2015, an amendment was offered to permanently repeal the therapy cap and provide an appropriate alternative policy. This amendment received a 58 majority vote in the Senate, just shy of the 60-vote threshold needed. We and other therapy stakeholders including patient, consumer, and provider groups support provisions to repeal and reform the therapy cap and urge that a permanent solution be examined before the deadline approaches.

We urge you to show your support for a full repeal of the therapy cap. Please contact the following Washington representatives and ask them for their support of this bill (H.R. 807/S. 253). Below are the names, addresses and phone numbers of our local representatives. We've attached a sample letter for your guidance. Please let us know if you have any question.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Therapists of Patterson Physical Therapy

Congressman Anthony Brown, 1505 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515;
Phone (202) 225-8699

Senator Benjamin Cardin, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-4524

Senator Chris VanHollen, 110 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Phone (202)224-4654

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear _____

Having received the benefits of Physical Therapy, I know the importance of this field of medicine. Having an annual limit on the amount of therapy available to me could really affect my recovery. When I found out that the reason for this limit was only to save money for the government and did not have any medical reasoning, I felt I needed to write to you. I understand that there are bills before both the House and the Senate which would correct this.

Please support H.R. 807/S. 253 so that I and other Medicare patients would have the ability to get the treatment that we need.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,