March 6, 2017

**Re: Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act of 2017 (H.R. 807 and S. 253)**

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations are writing as members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) to express our support for the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act of 2017, the outpatient therapy services cap repeal legislation introduced in both the House (H.R. 807) and Senate (S. 253). The Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) is a coalition of forty-eight (48) national consumer, clinician, and membership organizations that advocate for policies to ensure access to rehabilitative care so that individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities and chronic conditions may regain and/or maintain their maximum level of health and independent function.

Individuals with stroke, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, amputation and other serious disabilities and chronic conditions often need intensive and ongoing rehabilitation care to improve their health status; maintain their functional abilities, and prevent deterioration of function. Outpatient rehabilitation therapy is a critical component of an overall plan of care for many Medicare beneficiaries and helps such individuals live independently in their homes and communities, rather than being institutionalized. For people with disabilities and chronic conditions, outpatient therapy services are vital to avoiding unnecessary and expensive acute care visits and preventing secondary conditions.

CPR has long argued that therapy caps are completely arbitrary and harm beneficiaries most in need of rehabilitation. CPR members believe that outpatient therapy services should be administered in the best interest of individuals needing rehabilitation, rather than based on arbitrary limitations on coverage. We therefore wholeheartedly support the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act of 2017, and urge you to co-sponsor this Act.

Thank you for your willingness to consider our views. Should you have further questions regarding this information, please contact Peter Thomas or Steve Postal, CPR staff, by emailing Peter.Thomas@powerslaw.com or Steve.Postal@powerslaw.com, or by calling 202-466-6550.

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Sincerely,

**CPR Steering Committee**

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**Supporting Organizations**

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals

ACCSES

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association on Health and Disability

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Music Therapy Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

American Spinal Injury Association

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

The Arc of the United States

Association of Academic Physiatrists

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Brain Injury Association of America

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

Easterseals

Epilepsy Foundation

Falling Forward Foundation

Lakeshore Foundation

Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics

National Council for Behavioral Health

National Council on Independent Living

National Disability Rights Network

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Rehabilitation Association

National Stroke Association

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation

United Cerebral Palsy

United Spinal Association