

_____, 2017

Congressman Sam Johnson
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson,

The following organizations support your proposed legislation to expand Health Savings Accounts to help seniors receive care at home. Including home care services as a qualified medical expense in Health Savings Accounts will greatly help America's seniors and their families.

America is aging rapidly. By 2020, America's population of those 65 or over will reach 56 million, and by 2050 that number will rise to 84 million. The oldest population – Americans over 85 – is projected to triple by 2050. Even though most seniors prefer to remain in their own homes, nearly 70% of Americans who reach age 65 will be unable to care for themselves without assistance as they age.

To meet this growing challenge for America's elderly, the Nation will need every option available: traditional government health care programs, unpaid care provided by families and loved ones, and private pay home care. Those who receive paid home care services require fewer medical and hospital visits – saving the U.S. an estimated \$25 billion a year. Despite the benefits, paid home care often remains out of financial reach for many Americans.

For this reason, we support your proposal to allow seniors and families to use their Health Savings Accounts to cover home care expenses. Enhancing and expanding Health Savings Accounts to give individuals and their families the ability to save and spend *their own* money for home care is a way to ease the financial burden on many families while benefitting the Nation as a whole.

For further information, please contact John Schall, Chief Executive Officer, Caregiver Action Network, at 202-454-3971 or JSchall@CaregiverAction.org.

Thank you.