

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Terri Sewell  
United States House of Representatives  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
United States House of Representatives  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Sewell and Smith:

We, the undersigned 268 groups, write to express our strong support for **H.R. 5741, the “Strengthening Innovation in Medicare and Medicaid Act.”** This bipartisan legislation will make significant strides in addressing patient and provider concerns about the impact of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) demonstrations on access to care and the quality of care. We urge Congress to ensure the needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries – a significant proportion of whom have serious or life-threatening health conditions or disabilities – are safeguarded. We are concerned that too many CMMI models endanger patient access to healthcare providers and medically necessary treatments and create unnecessary obstacles for vulnerable patients.

H.R. 5741 provides safeguards for CMMI to ensure CMMI demonstrations are patient-focused and benefit beneficiaries. In the long run, improving healthcare delivery and quality is the best way to achieve sustainable cost savings. The legislation would:

- **Incorporate feedback from beneficiaries and other stakeholders in developing CMMI models** by formalizing the process with advance public notice and an opportunity for input. It is essential to ensure transparency and greater accountability before selecting, designing, testing, evaluating, or expanding a demonstration. Patients need greater transparency to better understand how CMMI models being tested will affect their care and treatment options.
- **Limit testing of new delivery and payment models** to no more than five years, ensuring beneficiaries will no longer be subjected to potentially harmful models for sustained periods of time.
- **Limit the scope of models** to only the number of participants necessary to achieve a statistically valid sample. Several on-going or proposed CMMI Phase I models are national in scope, affecting a large number of beneficiaries and providers before the demonstration’s consequences have been fully evaluated.
- **Address potential adverse impacts on patients** by requiring continuous real-time monitoring of the effects of a model on beneficiaries, especially as it relates to health disparities. This will help mitigate any adverse impact on Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries who are some of the nation’s sickest patients.
- **Reaffirm the role of Congress in the expansion of CMMI models** by establishing an expedited process for Congress to disapprove of the proposed expansion of a CMMI demonstration. This process adds an important layer of oversight to CMMI demonstrations to improve transparency and help maintain patient safety and access.
- **Establish the opportunity for judicial review at key CMMI decision points.** Current law does not provide for an independent judicial process to evaluate the effect of CMMI decisions on patients and providers.

**We urge Congress to take action on H.R. 5741** expeditiously to ensure CMMI operates as intended and develops value-based projects that protect patients and ensure access to efficient, high quality care.

Sincerely,

1in9, Long Island Breast Cancer Coalition/Hewlett House  
60 Plus Association  
ADAP Advocacy Association  
Advocates for Responsible Care  
Aging Life Care Association®  
AIDS CT  
Aimed Alliance  
Alabama Gastroenterological Society  
Alaska Brain Injury Network  
Alaska Counseling Association  
Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Alliance for Patient Access  
ALS Advocate, The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association  
American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA)  
American Chronic Pain Association  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Health Care Association/ National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL)  
American Kidney Fund  
American Liver Foundation  
American Liver Foundation – Heartland Division (IN, KY, OH, WV)  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
America's Blood Centers  
APS Foundation of America, Inc  
Arizona Ophthalmological Society  
Arizona Bioindustry Association, Inc. (AZBio)  
Arizona United Rheumatology Alliance  
Arizona Urological Society  
Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association  
Arthritis Center of Nebraska  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of Women in Rheumatology  
Biocom  
BioForward Wisconsin  
BioKansas  
Bio Nebraska  
BioNJ  
BioOhio  
Bioscience Association of North Dakota

Bioscience Association of West Virginia  
BioUtah  
Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado  
Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa  
Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska  
Brain Injury Alliance of New Mexico  
Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City  
Brain Injury Association of MS  
Brain Injury Association of Louisiana  
Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire  
Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island  
Brain Injury Association of Vermont  
Bramlett Medical  
Buechler Insurance Services  
California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
California Chronic Care Coalition  
California Health Collaborative  
California Hepatitis C Task Force  
California Life Sciences Association  
California Rheumatology Alliance  
CancerCare  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY  
Centro de Mi Salud, LLC  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Coalition of Hematology Oncology Practices  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition  
Colorado Health Care Association  
Colorado Podiatric Medical Association  
Colorado Rheumatology Association  
Community Access National Network (CANN)  
Community Oncology Alliance  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation  
Delaware Academy of Medicine and the Delaware Public Health Association  
Delaware Ecumenical Council  
Dia de La Mujer Latina  
Digestive Health Physicians Association: DHPA  
Economic Development Partnership of Alabama  
Emphysema Foundation for Our Right to Survive (EFFORTS)  
Empire State Hematology and Oncology Society  
Familia Unida Living with MS "Familia Unida"  
First Step Staffing, Inc.  
Florida Society of Rheumatology  
Gastroparesis Support Services Inc.  
Georgia Bio  
Georgia Health Care Association  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Great Plains Diabetes LLC

Hawaii COPD Coalition  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association  
Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology  
Health Agents for America  
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Homecare and Hospice Association of New Jersey  
Homecare and Hospice Association of Utah  
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network  
Idaho Podiatric Medical Association  
Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization (iBIO)  
Indiana Health Industry Forum  
Indiana Oncology Society  
International Association of Hepatitis Task Forces  
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis  
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation  
ION Solutions  
Iowa Oncology Society  
IVX Health  
Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology  
Kentucky Academy of Eye Physician and Surgeons  
Kentucky Podiatric Medical Association  
Kentucky Rare Disease Advisory Council  
LI Transplant Recipient International Organization  
Large Urology Group Practice Association (LUGPA)  
Let's Talk About Change, LLC  
Licensed Professional Counselors Association  
Life Sciences Pennsylvania  
Living Hope for Mental Health, Inc.  
Louisiana Oncology Society  
LUNGeivity Foundation  
Lupus Alliance of Upstate New York  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tri-State Chapter  
Lupus Foundation of Arkansas, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation New England  
Maine Podiatric Medical Association  
MassBio  
Massachusetts Foot and Ankle Society  
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California, Inc.  
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)  
MidWest Rheumatology Association  
Milwaukee Rheumatology Center  
Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology  
Mississippi Arthritis and Rheumatism Society  
Mississippi Oncology Society  
Mississippi Psychiatric Association  
Missouri Oncology Society  
Missouri Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

Montana Academy of Ophthalmology  
Montana Bioscience Association  
Montana State Oncology Society  
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation  
NAMI Barrow  
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Certification Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO)  
National Infusion Center Association  
National Medical Association  
National Oncology State Network  
National Organization of Rheumatology Managers  
Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Nebraska Rheumatology Society  
Nebraska Rural Health Association  
Nebraska State Grange  
Nebraska State Medical Association  
Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom  
Nevada Biotechnology & Health Science Consortium  
Nevada Oncology Society  
New Hampshire Podiatric Medical Association  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies  
New Jersey Rheumatology Association  
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association  
New Mexico Chronic Disease Prevention Council  
New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association  
NewYorkBIO  
New York State Podiatric Medical Association  
NHMH - No Health without Mental Health  
North Carolina Biosciences Organization  
North Carolina Business Group on Health  
North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association  
North Carolina Oncology Association  
North Carolina Public Health Association  
North Carolina Rheumatology Association  
NC Society of Gastroenterology  
North Dakota Brain Injury Association of Michigan  
North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
North Dakota Public Health Association  
Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice  
Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice  
Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology  
Oklahoma Public Health Association  
Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology  
Oncology Center of Iowa  
Oncology Managers of Florida  
Oral Cancer Foundation  
Oregon Bioscience Association

Oregon Podiatric Medical Association  
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease  
Partnership to Improve Patient Care  
Personalized Medicine Coalition  
Physician Advocacy Institute  
Piedmont Arthritis Clinic  
Platte Valley Ambulance Service  
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District  
Prism Health North Texas  
Regarding Cancer  
Retiresafe  
Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana  
Rheumatology Association of Nevada  
Rheumatology Nurses Society  
Rio Grande Valley Diabetes Association  
Rocky Mountain Oncology Society  
Ruby A. Neeson Diabetes Awareness Foundation  
Rush To Live Org  
SADS Foundation (Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes)  
See  
Seven Peaks Counseling  
Silverstone International  
Sjögren's and Lupus Foundation of Hawaii  
Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care  
Society for Social Work Leadership In Health Care – MOKAN  
Society for Social Work Leadership in Healthcare Northern California Chapter  
South Carolina Oncology Society  
South Carolina Rheumatism Society  
South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology  
South Dakota Biotech  
South Dakota Public Health Association  
Southern California Biomedical Council (SoCalBio)  
SquareOne Consulting  
Survivors Cancer Action Network  
Tennessee Oncology Practice Society  
Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice  
Texas Business Group on Health  
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute  
Texas Oncology  
Texas Ophthalmological Society  
Texas Podiatric Medical Association  
Texas Renal Coalition  
Texas Society of Clinical Oncology  
Texas State Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
The Arizona Clinical Oncology Society  
The Lighthouse School  
The Mended Hearts  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
The US Oncology Network  
TRIO Seattle  
United Ostomy Associations of America

United States Brain Injury Alliance  
USCOPD Coalition  
Utah State Orthopedic Society  
Vermont Ambulance Association  
Vermont Podiatric Medical Association  
Virginia Association of Hematologist & Oncologist  
Virginia Public Health Association  
Virginia Society of Rheumatologists  
Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
Washington Rheumatology Alliance  
Washington State Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Washington State Urology Society  
West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
West Virginia Oncology Society  
Wisconsin Association of Hematology & Oncology  
Wisconsin Health Care Association  
Wyoming Business Coalition on Health  
Wyoming Epilepsy Association