



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](mailto:Peter.Thomas@powerslaw.com) or [Steve.Postal@powerslaw.com](mailto: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