



Pediatric Home Care Association of America

October 17, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray
Co-Chair, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
Co-Chair, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction

The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Xavier Becerra
The Honorable Dave Camp
The Honorable James E. Clyburn
The Honorable John Kerry
The Honorable Jon Kyl
The Honorable Rob Portman
The Honorable Pat Toomey
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen

Members, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction

Dear Co-Chairs and Members:

The Pediatric Home Care Association of America represents hundreds of home care agencies and thousands of nurses and home care givers who care at home for children who suffer from profound medical problems.

Until 30 years ago, children who were born premature or with congenital problems spent weeks or months in the hospital. Today we can care for them at home where they can be with their parents, brothers and sisters and receive the highest quality of care.

We care for thousands of children who are fighting cancer or other dread diseases. We have proven that we can care for them and help keep families together with reduced mortality or morbidity. In other words, even in cases where children are receiving intravenous chemotherapy, they do better at home. Studies have proven that the incidence of adverse reactions or incidents which occur in the home do so at a much

reduced rate as compared to children who are hospitalized.

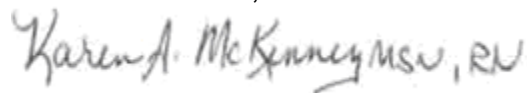
We also care for thousands of children who have suffered an accident – some of whom have become paraplegic or quadriplegic and rely on a machine called a ventilator for their every breath. We care for these young people in their home settings, help teach their parents to care for them and once again make them as self-sufficient as possible.

Over the past 30 years, we have been successful in proving our case to private insurance companies who now look to place children in the custody of home care agencies to carry out physician orders rather than keep them in an institutional setting.

To the extent that we receive government monies, it comes to us through the Medicaid program. We know how important this program is for young people who suffer from illness and disability and we also know how difficult it has been for the states to keep up with the growing costs of this program. We know that you are considering some suggestions which would reduce spending for Medicaid or turn the program into some kind of block grant. We urge you to maintain the funding so that we can continue our important work on behalf of this precious resource – our children – who make up not only our future but also our present.

May God bless you in your important work and give you the wisdom to make the right judgments which allow us to preserve our basic American values. As you are considering changes—many of which will reduce the budget deficit—we urge you to protect the children who must trust others for their protection and well-being. We pledge our very best efforts to continue to care for them as if they were our own children or grandchildren.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen A. McKinney MSN, RN". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Karen A. McKinney, MSN, RN
Chairman