The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201  

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

The availability of home healthcare services is important to millions of frail elderly and disabled patients across our nation. It is important that laws set by Congress and rules and regulations administered by the executive branch take proper care of the issues which affect the access to care for this community. As such, we write to express our comments on the 2015 proposed Home Health Prospective Payment System (HHPPS) rule by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which will be finalized in the coming months and take effect on January 1, 2015.

We acknowledge that progress was made towards eliminating the required physician narrative as part of the Face-to-Face (F2F) requirement in the 2015 proposed HHPPS rule and support the inclusion of this provision in the final rule. However, concerns remain over the providers and patients whose claims are still being denied due to an insufficient physician narrative while they wait for the rule to be finalized. CMS signaled with the proposed rule that it intends to no longer enforce the physician narrative requirement. Therefore, we urge CMS to suspend audits related to the physician narrative beginning with the date that the 2015 proposed HHPSS rule went on display (July 1, 2014). Similarly, in light of the changes announced in the proposed rule, we urge CMS to establish a process that would allow providers to receive full reimbursement if a claim was previously denied for an "insufficient physician narrative."

As Representatives concerned about the impact that the final 2015 HHPPS rule from CMS will have on the ability of the elderly and disabled to receive proper care and treatment through home healthcare services, we appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Reed  
Member of Congress

Greg Walden  
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Allyson Y. Schwartz  
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress

Dmitry B. Denga  
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress

Diane Black  
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress

Alec Hastings  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Albie Sires  
Member of Congress
Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress