Home care services make sense for the nation's hospitals.
Rather than receiving patients in overcrowded emergency rooms, where the average cost is $7,000 for a visit, hospitals are making increasing use of home care services, which cost about $100 a day. The effective use of home care prevents unnecessary admissions, and by so doing, hospitals can use their scarce beds to care for those suffering from acute health problems.

Home care services make sense for physicians.
Caring for seniors and persons with disabilities takes a great deal more time than it does caring for younger individuals. Time is the single, most precious element in health care. Saving physicians' time pays dividends all across the health care system. Home care nurses aided by telehealth technology, can extend the work of physicians, improving the quality of care and bringing in physicians only when there is clear evidence of need.

Home care services make sense for nursing homes.
It is in their interest to provide a continuity of care, and to ensure that patients are in the right place at the right time. It is not a question of whether patients receive home care or nursing home services. The US Supreme Court has made it clear in Olmstead that Americans enjoy a constitutional right to be cared for at home. When this is no longer possible, some form of institutional services would seem to be indicated. Home care services serve as a safety net, preventing unnecessary institutionalization and screening to make sure nursing homes care for patients with a complex series of needs.

Home care services make sense for nurses.
Throughout our health care system, there exists a nursing shortage which is projected to become more acute. Home care provides nurses with independence and the ability to exercise their own judgments—to recommend what is best for patients. By contrast, in an institutional setting, nurses typically carry out a physician's orders. Home care nurses enjoy a great degree of flexibility. The psychological rewards, which come from helping seniors and disabled individuals recover and live independently, are without comparison.

Home care services make sense for patients and their families.
Seniors prefer to stay in their own homes rather than in institutions by margin of 90 percent. The data shows that seniors, who receive services—from simple personal care to complex services such as IV chemotherapy at home—have better results with fewer complications than those cared for in hospital settings. Seniors, who live at home rather than in a nursing home, have higher life expectancies and enjoy a better quality of life. Home care services are generally less expensive than comparable institutional care. Even more to the point, home care services help keep families together, while institutional care even at its best, shatters the family, the fundamental building block of society.

Home care services make sense—dollars and cents for government.
Every time a Medicare patient is prevented from having to seek admission in a hospital emergency room, the government saves almost $7,000—and more if the patient is conveyed to the hospital by ambulance. For this reason, Medicare is looking to home care agencies to be providers of disease management, ensuring seniors' health care remains in balance, thereby avoiding unnecessary doctor and hospital visits. Every state in the union at the direction of their governors is currently carrying out programs called "rebalancing Medicaid"—the federal-state health care program for indigents, the purpose of which is to keep infirm seniors and other disabled Americans out of nursing homes. Such programs reflect what is best for patients and their families, as well as saving money.

Because it makes sense—dollars and cents—home care is the one program supported by Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives alike.