

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 27, 2017

Thomas Price, MD  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Price,

We write to reiterate our concerns with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Pre-Claim Review Demonstration (PCRD) for home health services that is set to begin in Florida on April 1, 2017. We ask for the agency to replace PCRD with a more effective program integrity initiative that better targets fraud.

Home health is a critical service for our constituents and the approximately 3.5 million seniors and people with disabilities on Medicare. It plays a vital role in treating patients in a clinically-appropriate manner and in the location they most prefer – their own home. These patients are among the most vulnerable. They are typically older, of lower socioeconomic status, and more likely to be disabled, a minority, or female than all other Medicare populations.

In August 2016, CMS initiated the PCRD program in Illinois, with plans to expand to Florida, Texas, Michigan and Massachusetts. Initially the program was scheduled to be implemented in Florida on October 1, 2016, but was indefinitely delayed because of the problems experienced by beneficiaries and providers in Illinois. In December, CMS announced it was moving forward with the demonstration in Florida with an April 1, 2017 start date, without making meaningful changes to the program and without any information to suggest that the demonstration in Illinois had uncovered a single case of fraud. We believe that without meaningful changes to the program to ensure it appropriately detects fraud without jeopardizing seniors' access to home health care, it is inappropriate to implement the PCRD in Florida.

We support efforts to combat Medicare fraud and protect taxpayer funds, but we are concerned that the PCRD's current parameters are too broad to reduce fraud and improper payment rates. We encourage you to consider an alternative approach that would achieve these goals and ease the administrative burden and additional implementation costs for smaller home health agencies, and ensure timely patient access to services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to strengthen Medicare program integrity without disrupting patient care or access to home health services.

Sincerely,



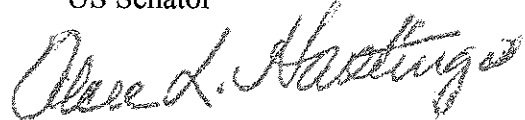
Bill Nelson  
US Senator



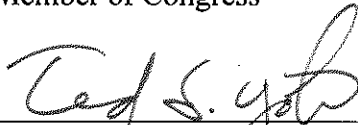
Marco Rubio  
US Senator



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress



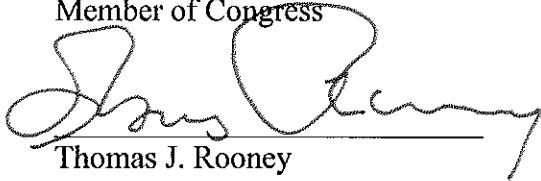
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



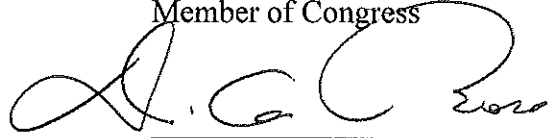
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress




Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress




Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



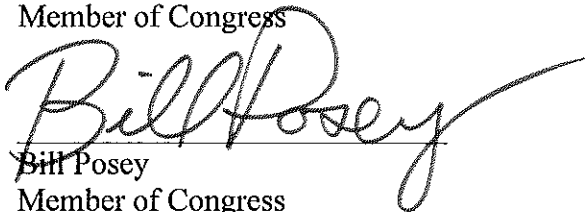
Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



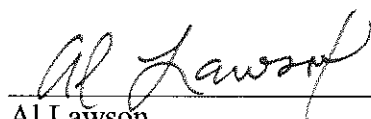
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress




Val Demings  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

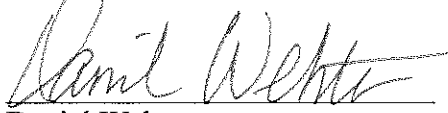


Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



---

Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



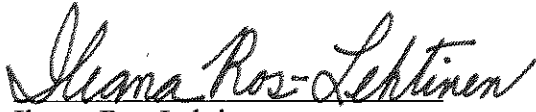
---

Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



---

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



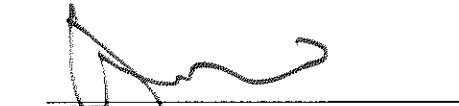
---

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



---

Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress



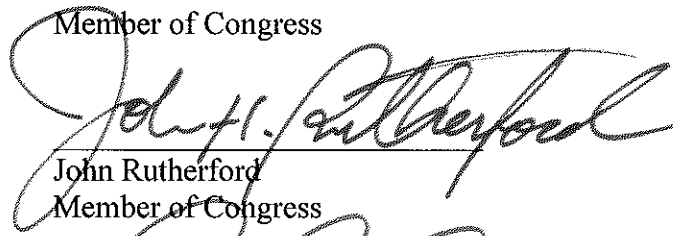
---

Dr. Neal Dunn  
Member of Congress



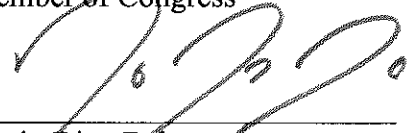
---

Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



---

John Rutherford  
Member of Congress



---

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



---

Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress



---

Ron DeSantis  
Member of Congress